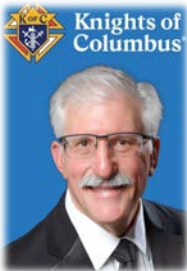




The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brothers & Ladies

It's hard to believe that the beautiful and joyous season of Christmas is upon us already. With Advent starting this past weekend, it helps us to recall that we need to start preparing our hearts and our minds for the coming of the birth of the Lord. Christmas reminds us each year of the love of God for us. He sent his only begotten son to live and to stand with us in our joys and sorrows. He came to redeem us and to bring us into eternal life through His life, death and Resurrection. This journey all begins with a baby in a manger with the loving and God chosen parents of Mary and Joseph. This is the miracle and the promise. So, with all the shopping and the parties, the hectic business of the season, we need to take the time to remember the real meaning of Christmas. I hope everyone has a wonderful and blessed Christmas, with time spent with family and friends with the hope of a Happy New Year.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving spent with family and friends. I'm sure we all ate more than we intended too on this great feasting day. As our sons reminded us, "be sure to bring the elastic pants!" They were certainly right about that, and I confess that I ate too much and fell asleep on the couch watching the football game. Maybe, some of you can relate to that!

Issue 12, December 2025

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, December 11 @ 7:00 pm
in the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org

Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org
Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

We started off the month with the Assembly doing Coffee & Donuts on Sun before Veterans Day. Thank you to those who took the time to help at this event.

Next was our annual Memorial Mass where we honor our fellow brothers who have gone home before us. Thank you, Fr. Cooper, for an inspiring Mass. Thank you, John Papa, for reading over the 220 names of our brothers who have entered their fraternal home. I would also like to thank John Gohman for being our Sacristan and JJ Coyne for doing one of the readings. I felt honored to also do one of the readings. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Wally Vazquez for organizing this special tribute to those who are at rest in the heavenly kingdom. We had a good turnout for Mass and the reception. I, personally, enjoyed seeing everyone spend time in fellowship afterwards. Thanks, Mark Feldman, for helping me clean up and reset the St. John Bosco Center.

The Assembly had their biggest event of the year where it looks like we raised over \$25,000 for the Gary Sinise Foundation which helped to finance JT Doody's new home. This event was very successful with over 100 golfers and an incredible amount of donations and auction items. Thank you to the many volunteers that helped with this major undertaking. Without your help and support we would not have been able to make this an outstanding success.

We decorated the courtyard on Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Thank you, Mike Engelmann, for coordinating this and Bill Krajieski, Matt Sunski, Tom Krivchenia, Mark Feldman, Gene Jaguga and JJ Coyne who also helped set up the Parish Center for Advent By Candlelight.

On Black Fri we decorated the Main Church for Advent with the trees and garlands. Thanks to those who helped set up. I'm sorry if I left anyone out.

Matt Sunski Bill Krajieski Mike Engelmann
Terry Drake Gene Jaguga Mark Feldman
Tom Krivchenia

We had our light the Courtyard event on Sat night. Thanks to Jean Wozniak, Tom Wozniak, Rita Wolanin and Mike Engelmann for setting things up and providing the hot chocolate and pastries. A special thank you to the 6PM Choir and Bonnie Whitehurst for providing the beautiful holiday music for this event.

We also started our Keep Christ in Christmas, Christmas Card sales this past weekend. Thank you, Tom Harkins, Gene Wolanin and Mike Engelmann, for helping with this undertaking.

Upcoming Events

We will continue to sell the Keep Christ in Christmas cards each weekend after all the Masses until Sun Dec 14. We will continue to have our monthly Rosary on Thu, Dec 11th at 6:15 PM in the St. Johns Bosco Center with Jerry Custin & Wally Vazquez leading. Our one and only full family breakfast for the year is Breakfast with Santa. The date is Sun Dec 14th in the Parish Center after the morning Masses. We will have pictures with Santa & Mrs. Santa upon request. The cost for all you can eat breakfast is \$ 9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids 6-12. Breakfast includes Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Blueberry, Chocolate Chip, and Plain Pancakes, Milk, Juice and Coffee. Please plan on attending our breakfast. With this being a very busy event we will need a lot of volunteers to make this a successful event. A sign-up sheet has already been sent out for you to sign up when you are available to volunteer. We are having an Open House on Wed, Dec 17th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room. If you know of anyone who would be a good Knight, please invite them to the Open House. We are also having a Unified Degree Ceremony on Thu, Dec 18th in the Parish Center.

Our next big event is our annual Christmas Party on Fri, Dec 19th from 7:00 PM to 10 PM in the Parish Center. We are hosting for our Council and Assembly members, and we are inviting members from Light of Christ and All Saints Councils again this year. We hope to have a DJ again for your dancing enjoyment. We will also have gift baskets and a lotto tree to raffle off. The menu consists of Veal Parmesan, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Baked Ziti, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls and a cake for Dessert. This is a great way to get together with old friends and a chance to make new friends

Council Officers Meeting – Thu, Dec 4th at 7:00 PM In the Gathering Room
Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sat, Dec 6th after all Masses under the Pavilion
Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 7th after all Masses under the Pavilion
Rosary – Thu, Dec 11th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
Council 7109 Membership Meeting – Thu, Dec 11th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting -Thu, Dec 11th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sat, Dec 13th after all Masses under the Pavilion
Breakfast with Santa – Sun, Dec 14th after morning Masses in the Parish Center
Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales – Sun, Dec 14th after all Masses under the Pavilion
Council 7109 Open House – Wed, Dec 17th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thu, Dec 18th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
Unified Degree Ceremony – Thu, Dec 18th at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
Council 7109 Christmas Party – Fri, Dec 19th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
Kimberly Home Workday - Sat, Dec 20th at 8:00 AM at the Kimberly Home in Clearwater
Council Officers Meeting – Mon, Jan 5th at 7:00 PM In the Gathering Room
Rosary – Thu, Jan 8th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
Council 7109 Membership Meeting – Thu, Jan 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting -Thu, Jan 8th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room



SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109

Holy Moments

A Season of Reflection... and a Season of Action

Brother Knights,

As we enter the sacred season of Advent and approach Christmas, we are reminded that God often chooses the simplest moments to reveal His greatest gifts. Matthew Kelly teaches us that *"Holy Moments are the unlikely, unexpected moments when we allow God to work through us."*

This month, I ask each of you to reflect deeply on that message, because our council needs *every single Brother* to step into that calling. Not some. Not a handful. **ALL of us.** We currently stand at 6 **new members** on a goal of 15, with just 6 **months remaining** to reach Star Council once again. Let me be very direct here: **We cannot and will not reach our goal unless EVERY Brother Knight takes ownership of recruitment.**

This is not the job of the Membership Director alone. This is not the job of the Grand Knight alone. This is **the sacred responsibility of every man wearing the emblem of our Order.**

Why?

Because every Catholic man we invite has a story, a purpose, and a calling waiting to be awakened. Many are searching for faith, for fellowship, for direction, for a deeper connection to God and we can be the ones to place that invitation in their hands.

And that invitation?
That moment of courage?
That simple question *"Have you ever considered joining the Knights?"*
That is a **Holy Moment.**

A moment where we let God use us to transform the life of another man... and through him, his family, his parish, and his future.

Two Critical Opportunities This Month

We have two major events in December that can help us change the momentum but **only if our Brothers bring men to them:**

Open House – December 17, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

A casual, welcoming opportunity for men to learn who we are, what we do, and why it matters.

Exemplification Ceremony – December 18, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Brothers, these events will be meaningless unless **you** bring someone to them. Imagine what our council could achieve if every Knight reading this brought *just one* potential candidate to one of those evenings. We would not only reach our goal; **we would surpass it.**

Holy Moments in Action – A Challenge for December

Matthew Kelly tells us: *"Life changes when we choose to collaborate with God."*

This December, let's collaborate with God by choosing:

- **One conversation**
- **One invitation**
- **One Holy Moment**

Invite a man from Mass...
From your ministry...
From your family...
From your workplace...

And give him the same opportunity someone once gave you.

A Heartfelt Thank You... and a Call Forward

To those Brothers who help our council with this task already either by providing support to me at the events, printing materials, or handling the back-end paperwork with Supreme **thank you.** You are living examples of Holy Moments in action.

But we need *more*.
And we need *everyone*.

Brothers, we are halfway to our goal and halfway through the fraternal year.

Now is the time to push harder than ever. Let us come together this Advent season united, committed, and purposeful to strengthen our council, our parish, and our mission as Catholic men.

Together, we can do this.
Together, we *must* do this.
Together, we will rise to the challenge.

“Every Holy Moment you create brings a little more light into the world.” – Matthew Kelly

Let’s bring that light into December, into our parish, and into the hearts of the men we invite.

Vivat Jesus,



SK Edward J. Amador
Chancellor, Captain, Director of Membership
Barney Gonyea Council 7109
Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474



Members of the Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474 Color Corps participate in Veterans Day Mass

FAITH IN ACTION



FAITH



COMMUNITY



FAMILY



LIFE



WGK Tom Krivchenia recently presented Espiritu Santo Catholic School 3rd Graders with their personal Bibles

Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2025-2206

Dec 17 | Feb 18 | Apr 15 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2025-2026

Dec 18 | Feb 19 | Apr 16 | Jun 18

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	336
Insurance Membership	128
Honorary Life Members	60
Honorary Members	08
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	07/15
2024-2025 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	126
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06



Council Officers 2025-2026

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Recorder	Bill Krajieski	727.784.2817
Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins	727.772.0607
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN	727.286.7171
Advocate	Richard Resler	727.472.1651
Warden	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
Fraternal Benefits Advisor	John Ruckart	813.855.5111
Special Assistant to the Council	Vincent Cristiano	
Special Assistant to the Council	Gary Murphy	

Happy Birthday Brothers! Many Happy Returns!

Patrick Clarke, Anthony Crevello, Jonathan DiMattei, Michael Dixon, Richard Ducheny, Kenneth Ensley, Arnold Grohskopf, Kenneth Grubba, Michael Gutknecht, Thomas Harkins, Kenton Heuertz, Brian Jennings, Brian Kearns, Robert Kenny, James Kleinsorge, Richard LeClerc, Stanley Lipiarz, Christian Lyon, Charles McEwen, William McFadden, Stuart Miller, Thomas O'Rourke, Robert Pickard, Timothy Rush, John Strehle, Jugdesh Sujamani, Sean Swauger, Dennis Thelen, Mario Zaccaria

Prayers for the Sick

Marie Bishop, Sean Michael Cook (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Linda Cooper (d), Bob Ehrman, Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacqueline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Frank Schuster II (d), Kennedie McFadden, Sal Burriesci, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Dick LaLuzerne (d), Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duell (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Ed Warticki (d), Jack Mills (d), Bob Justiana, Madison Lentz, Helen Lentz, Kathleen Griffin, Karen Loparo, Taylor Dumke, Richard Roberto, Peter Saleses, Peggy Gohman, Barbara Papa, Kathy King, Richard Roberto, Joe LaGuardia, Michael D'Amelio, Steve Wozniak, Evelyn Harvey (d), Skylar Ruckart, Krish Sujamani, Jack Greenwald, Don Bishop (d), Claire Inderwies, Matt Sunski, Colleen Spaeth, Frank Nunziata (d), Dave Weber (d), Nicholas Burriesci (d), Anthony Burriesci (d), Tania Carnet, Thomas Ziegler (d), Thomas Barrett, Chuck Friesema, Jerry Custin, Nicholas Neubauer, Paul Harvey, Lilian Lenehan, Don Borbath

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or pharvey10@verizon.net

Support Our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith



Mark Wegener



John Paul Grabowski

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, while John Paul is located at St. Joseph Seminary College. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski is from Catholic Student Center, USF Tampa.

Please get your name on the list by giving \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever you can in support of this worthy endeavor! We need to continue to support these young men and vocations, but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Edward & Violet Amador, Mark Barrett, Donald Borbath, James & Jean Burris, William Cullen Jr, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Michael & Sue Engelmann, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael & Lisa Furman, Joel & Karen Gray, Robert & Catherine Gwinner IV, James & Anna Haitz, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Timothy & Ann Hartle, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Joseph & Sandra Hoherl, George & Claire Inderwies, Steven & Anne Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana Sr, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, Mark & Renee Kraf, William & Katherine Krajewski, Frank Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, John Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris & Leah Nesci, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Mark & Christine Peterman, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto Jr, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Stanko, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew Sunski, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria, Dennis & Joyce Ayrall, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, Sean Casey, John Coyne, Gerald Custin Jr, James & Sylvia O'Neill, Michael & Mary Kathleen Dixon, Philip & Jane Farney, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Charles & Raquel Friesema, John & Peggy Gohman II, Michael Gutknecht, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Christopher & Celise Jones, Gregory & Kim Juedes, Richard Kembell-Cook Jr, Timothy Kielich, Matthew Killeen, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Jack Kuczej, Christian Kuczej, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Santo Loparo Jr, Patrick Mackin, Michael & Maria McCarthy, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Frank Pensabene, Daniel & T Peterson, Donald & Alexis Reed, Andrew Rodnite, Juan & Rosemary Romero, Peter & Susan Saleses, Daniel & Paula Saracki, William & Mary Scott, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Michael & Melissa Short, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Keith & Griselda Taylor Sr, Thomas & Jean Wozniak, Patrick & Joan Alix, Patrick & Beatrice Boland, Sal & Ingrid Burriesci, Ryan Burriesci, Patrick Carroll, Joseph Celic III, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Joseph Cortese, Joseph Culmone, Hoyt Decker, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Terry & Shirley Drake, Richard & Joan Ducheny, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Mark Gurley, Irving Hernandez, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, Jarret & Lesley Ann Honahan, Mark & Maryann Kapinos, William & Elizabeth Kasak, Brian & Christine Kearns, Robert Kenny, Raymond Kraker, Dennis Lentz, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, Edward Martinenko, Kevin McMullen, Clifford & Michelle Merz, Anthony Metty, Darryl & Mary Miller, Thomas Myers, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Donald & Carol Palacheck, Robert Papariella, Thomas Penders, Glen Pettersen, James & Suzanne Preston Jr, Christopher Purcell, Edward & Sandra Riley, James & Drema Servoss Rooney, John Ruckart, Kurt & Mary Lynn Salac, Julius & Minnie Silva, Thomas Smith, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Gregory & Carolina Sohn, James & Darlene Stanley, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Alvah & Margaret Vankleeck, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Margaret Watson, Vincent Baldwin, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Thomas Bergevin, Victor Berggren, Jacob & Mary Burnett, Mark & Janet Busing, Jerome Dewberry, Timothy & Marcy Dolan, Eric & Maria Flores, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Robert Kelly, James Kleinsorge, Stanley Lipiarz, Gerald & Renee Lubig Jr, John Malone, Will & Jennifer Maxwell Jr, Christopher Mazzone, James & Phyllis Montali, Michael O'Neill, Miguel & Sammantha Perez I, Guillermo Romero, John J Liu, John T Liu, Albert Masselli, Peter & Susan Saleses

Total Collected to Date: \$3363.13



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

Advent

What are you doing for Advent? Advent used to be a time of penances and things. That seemed to have been replaced by Christmas Parties starting soon after Thanksgiving. Advent seems to have lost its spiritual base. The parties are okay but is there a spiritual root to Advent?

During these four weeks Jesus is growing in Mary's womb waiting to join us in the human family - his family. Advent becomes a time to pray about the incarnation - God choosing to become a human being with us. The incarnation grounds our spirituality. Human beings as human beings are precious. Everyday life is sacred and redemptive: whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do to me.

Part of the Incarnation is reflection on Jesus. God wanted to share our journey and know and feel what our lives are like. Jesus did not know all things. He had to learn how to be a carpenter, how to garden to raise food to eat. Jesus wanted friends. He reached out to others. He was not a lone wolf. He felt betrayal by friends and those in authority. He knew sorrow at the death of his foster father, Joseph, and his close friend Lazarus. All the human things we experience, Jesus did too. He did not have a

plastic bubble around him protecting him from life. God wanted Jesus to know everyday life so he could better walk with us and support and encourage us, as a savior and a brother

But what about the miracles? Jesus never used the miracles as proof of his divinity. Miracles demonstrated the power of God given him to heal. Some "predictions" came after the fact. The evangelists put words in Jesus' mouth to give Jesus more power "seemingly."

I Love the words in the Prologue of John's Gospel: From Jesus we have all received - gift upon gift, blessing upon blessing."

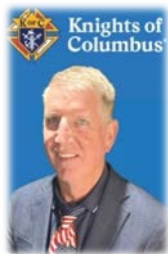
The Incarnation comes as a great gift of Advent.

Father Michael Cooper, SJ
Chaplain



Service Program Directors 2025-2026

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Vacant	
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Vacant	
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687



Mark Feldman
Deputy Grand Knight
dgk7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Brother Knights,

Hello everyone, now that Thanksgiving is over (need to lose weight), we are sprinting to the Christmas season and the celebration of the birth of baby Jesus. Thank you to everyone who helped volunteer with our Gary Sinise Golf Tournament. You all made it a big success.

Now to the busy month of December, but first I want to thank all the volunteers who helped decorate the church and courtyard. It looks fantastic. We will be having our full family breakfast on Sunday the 14th following all morning Masses. I heard through the grapevine that there will be a special guest from the North Pole. Wednesday the 17th we will have a KofC Informational Open House. Please try to get a friend to come and hear all about the Knights and what we do for our church and school. It will be held in the Gathering Room at 7:30pm. And on Thursday 18th we will hold a Unified Degree Exemplification at 7:30pm in the Parish Center.

On Friday the 19th we will be celebrating our KofC Christmas Party. If you are able, please sign up to help make it a big success. We will also be continuing our Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales after all masses on the weekend of the 6th & 7th and the following weekend of the 13th & 14th.

And last, the date has not been set but we will need more volunteers to take down all the Christmas decorations; we will get that date out to you. Merry Christmas everyone!

From the Faith Director

We will be saying the Rosary before our Membership meeting. That will be held in the JBC at 6:15pm.

From the Community Director

Unfortunately, we did not receive any Essays for the contest. However, we will be finalizing plans for the Basketball Free Throw Contest.

From the Family Director

As stated earlier, we will be working after all the Masses selling the Keep Christ in Christmas cards.

December Liturgical Calendar

- Dec 03: St. Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial
- Dec 04: St. John of Damascus, Priest, religious, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- Dec 06: St. Nicholas, Bishop, optional memorial
- Dec 08: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity & Holy Day
- Dec 09: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, optional memorial
- Dec 10: Our Lady of Loreto, optional memorial
- Dec 11: St. Damasus I, Pope, optional memorial
- Dec 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast
- Dec 13: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial
- Dec 23: St. John of Kanty, Priest, optional memorial
- Dec 25: the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation
- Dec 26: St. Stephen, the First Martyr, Feast
- Dec 27: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast
- Dec 28: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Feast
- Dec 29: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr, optional memorial
- Dec 31: St. Sylvester I, Pope, optional memorial

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Born in Syracuse, Sicily in 283, she was of a Noble Greek family. She was brought up Christian by her mother, who was miraculously cured at the shrine of St. Agatha in Catania. Lucy made a vow of virginity and distributed her wealth to the poor. This generosity stirred the wrath of the unworthy youth to whom she had been unwillingly betrothed and who denounced her to Paschasius, the governor of Sicily. When it was decided to violate her virginity in a place of shame, Lucy, with the help of the Holy Spirit, stood immovable. After torture which included the taking out of her eyes, a fire was then built around her, but again God protected her. She was finally put to death by the sword. Her death occurred in 304AD. Her name appears in the Second List in the Roman Eucharist Canon.



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

A blessed Advent to you all.

As we anticipate the coming of Christ at Christmas, it's undoubtedly a busy time of year for so many of us. There are meals to prepare, gatherings to attend and gifts to buy, but we know these are labors of love. We love our families and want this holy time of year to be special for them.

These moments we share with our families are precious, and they should cause us to reflect on what it is we cherish in our lives and strive to protect. What would life look like if the unexpected were to happen?

I invite you this season to consider protecting what matters most through the gift of life insurance.

The right life insurance coverage can mean financial security for your family. It can mean the ability for them to have income to help minimize the impact of an untimely death on their level of financial comfort. It can shield against debt or remaining mortgage payments, so your family is protected if you or your spouse dies unexpectedly.

Depending on your policy, it could also be the seeds of a growing financial legacy — a foundation to give your loved ones so they can continue to build upon what you've worked for.

Simply put, life insurance is the gift of protection and stability for the most important people in our lives.

Let's schedule time to connect before the end of the year so we can explore affordable options together that can help make a big difference for your peace of mind in 2026 and for years to come.

Check out this link to see how much of an impact this can make for a Family! <https://video.flkofc.com/>
Thank you!

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF, 813.855.5111

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

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



Tidings of joy to all in this Advent Season! It's that time of year for festivities and fellowship. The Ladies Auxiliary and WES will once again participate in the collection of donations for Toys for Tots. The giving tree will be in the Narthex so that parishioners can take a request card and return to the WES table with a gift card for Walmart or Target. Our happy elf shoppers will purchase toys and deliver to the Oldsmar Fire Department. This has always been such a successful event to bring that special gift to those children in need. Blessings to all and have a beautiful holiday season ahead!



JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
johnjjcoyne@gmail.com
901.832.7332 (m)

Faithful Navigator's Log

As we enter the sacred season of Advent and prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord, our Assembly reflects with gratitude on a year filled with faith, fraternity, and service. December offers us a meaningful pause - a chance to look back on what we have accomplished together and to look ahead with renewed commitment to our mission as Sir Knights: to be the visible arm of the Church and exemplars of Catholic patriotism.

This past year, our members generously gave their time and talents in support of parish, community, and veterans' initiatives. From participating in civic ceremonies and honor guards to assisting at parish events, our Assembly continued to uphold the proud traditions of the Fourth Degree. Our involvement in Veterans Day observances and the support provided to local military families highlighted once again the importance of our principle of patriotism. Thank you to all Sir Knights who attended, volunteered, or represented our Assembly. Your presence makes a significant and lasting impact.

On behalf of the tournament committee for the 9th Annual Knights of Columbus Assembly 2474 Golf Tournament benefiting the Gary Sinise Foundation - held November 14 at Seven Springs Golf & Country Club - I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your generous support. This year's event raised over \$25,000, bringing our nine-year total to more than \$125,000.

Despite a venue change and a shift from our traditional Sunday morning format to a Friday afternoon, we were thrilled to host more than 100 golfers - and we could not have asked for a more beautiful day. The Seven Springs Golf & Country Club staff delivered outstanding service and provided a terrific venue for all participants.

This event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and donors.

A special thank-you to Retired US Army Staff Sergeant John Borders for sharing his powerful testimonial - and for joining us on the course!

December also invites us to remember those in need. Many of our parishes are conducting Advent outreach programs, including food drives, giving trees, and support for families facing hardship during the holidays. We encourage all Sir Knights to participate as they are able and to embody the spirit of Christ through acts of charity and compassion. Even the smallest gesture of kindness can bring light into someone's life during this busy season.

Looking forward, the new year will bring a full calendar of opportunities for engagement - Honor Guard events, patriotic programs, parish support, and our Assembly's charitable initiatives. We ask each member to consider where they feel called to serve and to take an active role in strengthening our brotherhood. If you know a Third-Degree Knight who would make a strong candidate for the Patriotic Degree, now is an excellent time to encourage him to take that next step. Our Assembly thrives when we continue to grow and welcome new Sir Knights into our ranks.

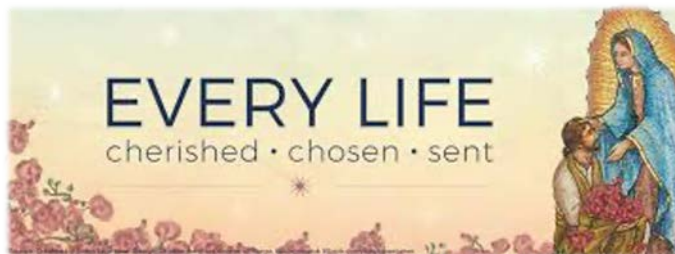
There will be a Patriotic Exemplification held at St Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Tampa on Saturday, January 31 at 9a. Please contact me to register; deadline is January 17, 2026, and cost is \$90.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and the hope of a new year, may the peace of Christ fill your homes and families. Thank you for your steadfast dedication to our Assembly and to the ideals of the Knights of Columbus. May God bless you and keep you in His grace throughout this holy season.

Vivat Jesus!
JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator



Njälssen Amaro Lionheart
 realamarolionheart@gmail.com
 305.761.3419



The Dawn That Breaks the Long Night: December, Month of Advent and the Nativity of Our Lord

December enters like a great hush over the earth, a solemn quiet that feels almost sacramental as the world waits beneath lengthening shadows. Advent is the season when creation itself seems to hold its breath, listening for the footsteps of God. It is the time when the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church calls her children to slow their hurried hearts and awaken to the ancient longing that echoes in the soul of every person who has ever searched for meaning in the dark. The prophets cry out for Emmanuel. Humanity aches beneath the weight of sin and hope. Mary, the living Ark of the Covenant, carries within her the Eternal Word who has taken flesh. Her womb becomes the first tabernacle. Her heart becomes the first Advent wreath. Joseph walks beside her in quiet fidelity, a guardian of mysteries too vast for human language. Together, they journey toward Bethlehem, and all of heaven follows behind them like a procession of stars. Advent is not merely anticipation. It is the ache before fulfillment, the silence before the thunder of salvation, the deep breath before the dawn breaks.

Then Christmas arrives like a divine eruption, shattering the stillness with a light the darkness cannot overcome. In a manger of rough wood lies the One who fashioned galaxies. The Infinite becomes infant. The Creator becomes creature. The King of Kings chooses straw instead of marble, shepherds instead of princes, poverty instead of pomp. The Nativity is the great inversion of the universe, the moment when God bends so low that even the lowliest of the low may lift their eyes and see heaven looking back at them. Every detail of Bethlehem is charged with eternal meaning. The manger foreshadows the Cross. The swaddling bands prefigure the burial cloth. The star piercing the night sky is the first sign of the light that will blaze from the empty tomb. Christmas is not a sentimental tale. It is the cosmic moment when eternity invades time, when the mercy of God takes form in the fragile flesh

of a newborn child, and when the promise whispered through centuries finally bursts open in glory.

To live December well is to kneel before this mystery with reverence and resolve. It is to allow Advent silence to purify our hearts, to allow Christmas joy to ignite our souls, and to carry the truth of the Incarnation into every corner of our lives. And to my brother Knights, this month gives us a mission worthy of our calling. Let us lead our families and parishioners toward the manger with renewed fervor. Let us organize Advent prayer, Nativity events, and charitable works that reflect the love of the Christ Child who came to a world that had no room for Him. Let us serve the poor and forgotten, remembering that the Holy Family found refuge only in the humility of a stable. Let us be men who do not drown in the noise of the world but who become witnesses of the light, carrying peace into chaos, faith into doubt, and hope into darkened places. December is the month when heaven kisses earth, when the dawn breaks the long night, and when Christ desires once again to be born in us. Let us prepare Him room, let us welcome Him with devotion, and let us serve Him with all our strength.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.



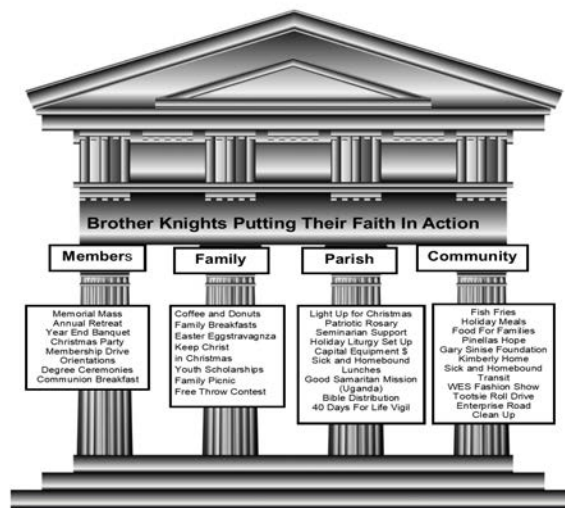


Jerry Custin
PGK, PFN
jcustin@gmail.com



Celebrate Advent

Psalm 84 provides an excellent reflection on the Magnificat proclaimed by Mary on the Annunciation that should be the Mother of our Savior. She praises the Lord and continues to reflect on His promises and mercies to mankind. *"He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."* We treasure those blessings in Psalm 84, *"Better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere. Better the threshold of the house of my God than a home in the tents of the wicked. O LORD of hosts, blessed the man who trusts in you!"* This Advent season, focus on your trust in God and His many blessings. It's as easy as 1,2,3. God is good, ALL the time.



Psalm 84

How lovely your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD. My heart and flesh cry out for the living God. As the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest to settle her young, My home is by your altars, LORD of hosts, my king and my God! Blessed are those who dwell in your house! They never cease to praise you. Blessed the man who finds refuge in you, in their hearts are pilgrim roads. As they pass through the Baca valley, they find spring water to drink. The early rain covers it with blessings. They will go from strength to strength and see the God of gods on Zion. LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen, God of Jacob. O God, watch over our shield; look upon the face of your anointed. Better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere. Better the threshold of the house of my God than a home in the tents of the wicked. For a sun and shield is the LORD God, bestowing all grace and glory. The LORD withholds no good thing from those who walk without reproach. O LORD of hosts blessed the man who trusts in you!

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Golf Tournament



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Letter to the Editor



The Trinity of Advent

We all know that the Advent Season leads up to the miracle of Christ's birth on Christmas now exactly 2025 years ago. However, there's an interesting backstory to Christmas and two other miracles without which Christmas may not have occurred.

Although the Magi followed the star to be with Mary and Joseph at Christ's birth, the first Christmas was not formally celebrated until 336 AD in ancient Rome. The exact date of Christ's birth was debated for centuries. The date of December 25 was chosen partly because it coincided with existing Roman winter festivals, such as the festival of Sol Invictus ("the unconquered sun"). Some traditions like gift-giving, feasting, and celebrating with family were also absorbed from pagan celebrations like Saturnalia, which took place in December.

The celebration was formalized in the Western Church in the 4th Century under Pope Julius I, who declared December 25th the official date for celebrating Jesus's birth. In 567, the Council of Tours "proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season" and established the duty of Advent fasting in preparation for the feast. Christmas did not become a regularly celebrated holiday in the West until the 9th Century. Obviously, it has grown into much more than a very holy religious festival. But, as Catholics, it's good to know the roots.

So, what other religious events are tied to Christmas? The first is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which we celebrate on December 8 as a holiday of obligation. There is also some history here. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception originated in the Eastern Church in the 7th century. It was adopted by the Western Church around the 11th century, eventually becoming a formal dogma of the Catholic Church in 1854 when Pope Pius IX declared that Mary was conceived without original sin. The key is the dogma that Mary was conceived without sin. The only individual in Biblical history to be sinless. This is critical

to Christ's Incarnation. Adam and Eve were created without sin (not conceived) but we know they fell prey to an apple causing us all to be conceived with original sin.

The Annunciation is the third part of the Advent Trinity. The Feast of the Annunciation originated in the early Christian Church, with evidence of a celebration on March 25th (nine months before Christmas) appearing as early as the 4th century in the East and 7th century in Rome. It commemorates the moment the Archangel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary she would give birth to Jesus, a pivotal event marking the Incarnation of Christ. The date, nine months before Christmas, also historically marked the new year in many Christian calendars and symbolized the beginning of a new era of salvation. Incarnation is the act of a divine being taking on a physical, often human, form. In Christianity, it refers to God's Son becoming human in the body of Jesus Christ to live on Earth. In other religions, like Hinduism, the concept is similar and is associated with deity avatars who appear in different forms to restore cosmic order.

Fortunately for us, Mary welcomed her blessing in these words. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

So, we have a sinless Mary, a miraculous Incarnation of God in a fully human and fully divine form, and a Virgin birth. The Trinity of Advent. Easy as 1, 2, 3.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

The Grace of Gratitude

*True thanksgiving is not a sentiment but a duty and discipline
that deepens faith and fosters joy*

Thanksgiving Day in the United States is often marked by hectic travel, a large meal with family and friends, and the beginning of the frantic Christmas shopping season. But should there be more to it? How should we approach this holiday dedicated to giving thanks? One way is to take a closer look at the life-changing power of gratitude.

Gratitude is an often-overlooked virtue. It is not a passing emotion, but an intentional choice — an act of the will that has the power to transform our lives.

As a spiritual practice, gratitude is a habit of mind that helps us fully grasp the presence of God in our lives and the extraordinary gifts he has given to us. Rooted in humility, gratitude is the recognition that God's blessings are based on his goodness to us and not upon our own merit. Through gratitude, Our Lord gives us "eyes to see and ears to hear" (Dt 29:3, cf. Prov 20:12, Mt 13:16). We see more clearly his magnificent, often hidden, action in our lives. We realize his great love for us and how he shapes us, encourages us and prepares us through the circumstances and seasons of our lives. This is especially true in times of difficulty — times when it is hardest to be grateful.

On a natural level, gratitude is the key to living a happier and healthier life. It brings about stronger relationships, better communication and healthier emotions. It takes us out of our narrow frame and allows us to see the world — and our place in it — with awe and wonder. There is a saying: "I never knew a grateful person who was unhappy, or an ungrateful person who was happy." When we focus our minds and hearts on the gifts God has given us, our anxieties, petty resentments and negative emotions tend to fall away.

St. Gianna Beretta Molla once wrote to her husband, "The secret to happiness is to thank God for what he is sending us every day in his goodness." Gratitude moves us to generosity and even joy. What the saints knew is that gratitude leads us to holiness.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux told her sister Céline, "It is the spirit of gratitude which draws down upon us the overflow of God's grace, for no sooner have we thanked him for one blessing than he hastens to send us 10 additional favors in return."

Indeed, the Latin root for gratitude is *gratia*, or grace. And lack of gratitude seems to be the root cause of so many of the ills that bedevil our society today, including selfishness and envy.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* lists ingratitude among sins against the first commandment because it "fails or refuses to acknowledge" all that God has done for us (2094).

Rooted in pride, ingratitude blocks our spiritual progress. It leads to self-absorption and a sense of entitlement based on the false notion that others owe us something. In a letter to a brother priest, St. Ignatius of Loyola went so far as to say that ingratitude is the "cause, beginning and origin of all sins and misfortune."

Conversely, the Mass is the highest form of thanks we can give to God. In its very essence, the Mass is a profound expression of our gratitude to the Lord for the healing power of his life, death and resurrection. It is no coincidence that the word "Eucharist" is derived from *eucharistia*, the Greek word for "thanksgiving."

So, as we approach Thanksgiving and the season of Advent, let us truly be thankful. But more than that, let us cultivate gratitude as a spiritual practice and an intentional and permanent part of our character. It will heal us and bring us the grace and peace of Christ.

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes 5:16-18).

Vivat Jesus!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

A Job Well Done!

At the conclusion of the first quarter moment to reflect on the work we've done and to offer a heartfelt message to my Brother Knights across our councils.

To each of you: job well done. Truly. It fills me with pride and gratitude to witness your steadfast dedication to the mission of the Knights of Columbus and the direction of the Florida State Council. You have carried yourselves with dignity, acted with integrity, and served with a deep sense of purpose. Through your commitment, you have brought honor to our Order, and I want you to know how much that means not just to me, but to the countless individuals and families whose lives you've touched.

Every time you step forward whether it's for a council event, a charitable act, a parish support activity, or simply in brotherhood you embody the spirit of Father Michael McGivney. Your actions speak volumes. They echo our foundational principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. And while it is easy to get caught up in numbers, events, and reports, let us never lose sight of the deeper impact we are called to make lifting those in need, strengthening our parishes, and being spiritual leaders in a world that desperately needs hope.

I must say, you make my role as State Deputy not only easier, but more joyful. To walk alongside men of such character and conviction is a blessing. You are building up our Church, our communities, and our brotherhood in quiet but powerful ways. Your tireless efforts often unseen and unrecognized are the backbone of what makes our Order thrive. And I thank you for every minute you've given, every sacrifice you've made, and every prayer you've offered.

Now, as the month of October draws to a close, we stand on the threshold of new opportunities. Let us not grow weary in doing good, for the harvest is coming. Let us recommit ourselves to the work that lies ahead not because it is easy, but because it is right. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in our parishes, neighborhoods, and beyond.

There is much to look forward to. November and December are months rich in both spiritual depth and charitable opportunity. As we prepare for the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, let us continue to be spiritually grounded, charitably active, and lovingly present. Let us take time to reflect on our blessings while also renewing our commitment to serve those who may feel forgotten or alone during the holidays.

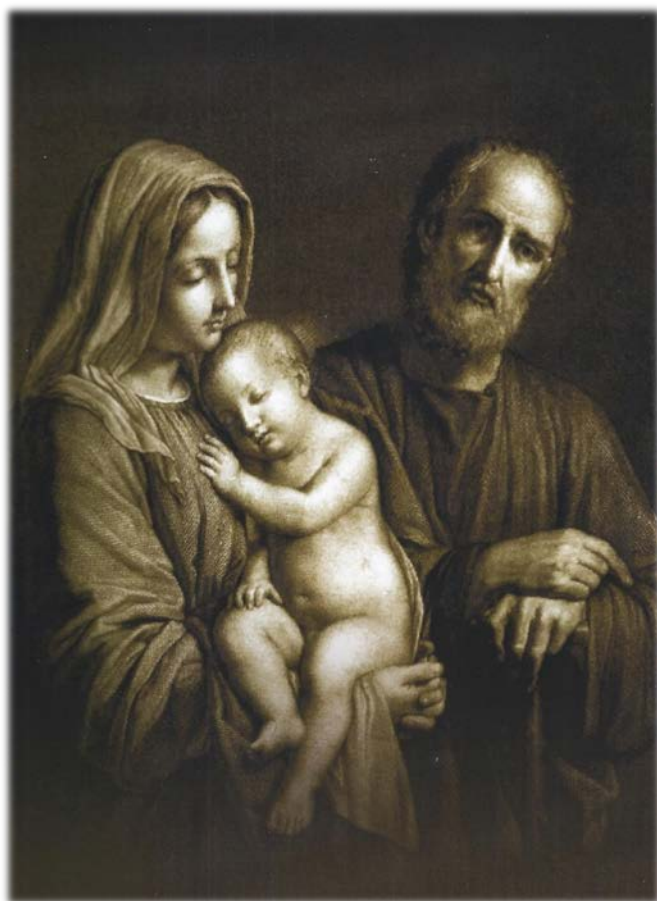
Let us lead not only with action, but with heart. The world will always need good men—men of faith, courage, and compassion. And I know with certainty that within the ranks of our the Knight of Columbus, those men are rising each day to meet the call.

To all my Brother Knights: thank you. Keep moving forward with the same spirit of unity and faith that has brought us this far. The road ahead is filled with promise, and together, we will continue to do great and holy work in His name.

Vivat Jesus!

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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.

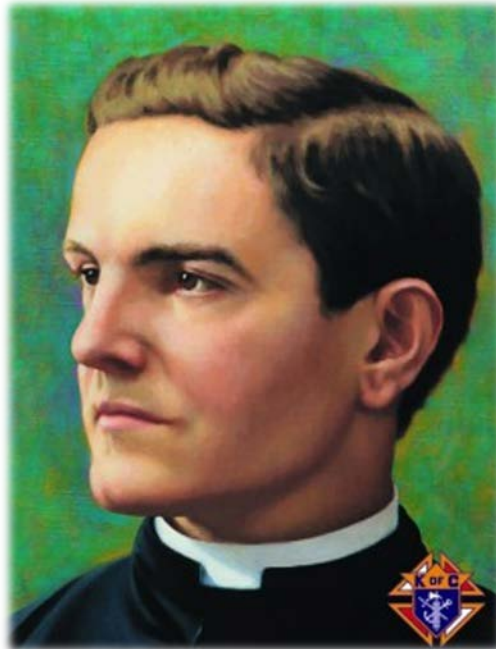
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. 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 for ever and ever.

Amen.



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

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 may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

What's Happening?



Council Calendar of Events...

December 2025

- 12/06 | Sat 3:30p Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/07 | Sun 8:00a Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/11 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 12/11 | Thu 7:00p Council 7109 & Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Meetings
- 12/13 | Sat 3:30p Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/14 | Sun 8:00a Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales
- 12/14/ | Sun 8:00a Full Family Breakfast w/ Santa
- 12/17 | Wed 7:00p KofC Informational Open House
- 12/18 | Thu 7:00p Unified Degree Exemplification
- 12/19 | Fri 7:00p Council Christmas Party
- 12/20 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay



Assembly Calendar of Events...

December 2025

- **No Monthly Meeting | Merry Christmas**
- 01/22 Thu 7:00p Monthly Business Meeting (Renewal of Obligations)
- **01/31 | Sat 9:00a 4th Degree Exemplification**
St Mark the Evangelist CC, Tampa, FL

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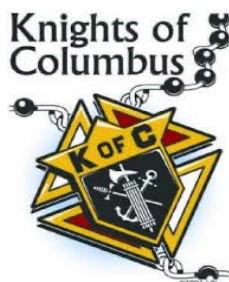
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Prayer for our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to
Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and
the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities
that accompany human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing
Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land,
grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

