



The

Korona

St. Mary's Council 11961
Website: www.council11961.org

Charity
Unity
Fraternity



December 2025

Grand Knight Message *In service to one. In service to all*



**For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder
And His name shall be called -
Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, the everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6**



We begin our joyful journey of
Advent on Sunday, November 30th.

Our regular first Sunday of the month **Knights' Mass** is on **December 7th at 10 a.m.** and the intention of the Mass is for the soul of **Karen Jurec**, our past Grand Knight, Joe Jurec's wife.

On **Monday, December 8th**, will be a **holy day of obligation/privilege** as we observe the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

On **Sunday, December 14th** we will have our first council **Christmas Party** in many years thanks to the kindness and generosity of Brother Chris and his wife, Marianne. The party will be at the Grecek residence at **76 New Leatherwood Drive in Palm Coast** from **12 p.m. until 6 p.m.** A *SignUp Genius* webpage will be coming soon for everyone to sign up to bring something for the potluck meal. Also, it is the feast day of St. John of the Cross, a Carmelite Doctor of the Church.

As we draw to the close of 2025, I want to thank all of you for your personal support throughout the year. No

Grand Knight ever had a better group of men to lead than I have had and I thank you for that privilege. Your support and friendship are wonderful gifts from God!

I want to thank you for the love and outstanding effort you have put into all of our activities. You have touched so many lives in a positive way by volunteering for Special Olympics, donating blood, working at our Fish Fries, participating in the Sacred Heart of Jesus presentation, helping at the Soccer Challenge, working at our Monastery clean-up day, bringing in generous sponsors for our golf tournament, and in innumerable other ways! Please know that I appreciate all that you do though I may not acknowledge it as much as I should. Come to think of it, that will be one of my New Year's resolutions!

I wish all of you a joyous and blessed Christmas season. May Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph be at the center of all that you and your families do throughout this most wonderful time of the year.

Vivat Jesus!

District Deputy Message



Brothers,

As we enter the Advent season, what a blessed time of the year this is for all of us! Our focus, as always, is to keep Christ in Christmas. This is the perfect time to give the gift of membership to that Catholic gentleman sitting next to you at church.

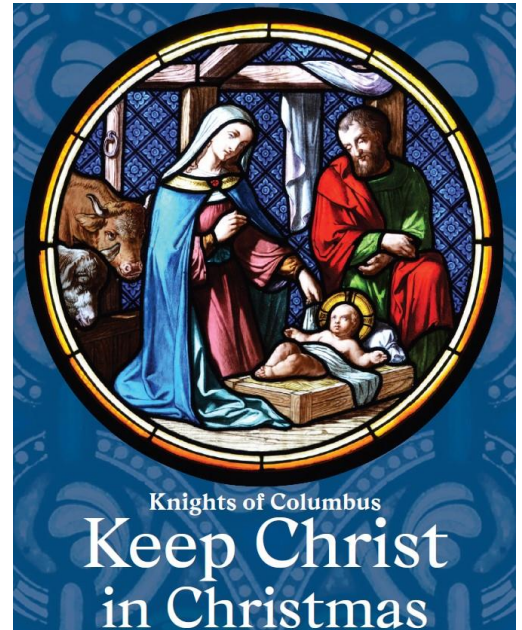
Remember we were INVITED to be Knights. Bless a Catholic gentleman with an invitation

Let's also remember those who are less fortunate and make a special effort to take care of our priests, deacons, and religious.

If you know someone who is alone for the holidays, invite them into your home and make them feel like family. From my family to yours, I wish you a very blessed Christmas and a safe, healthy and blessed New Year.

May our Lord keep you safe and joyous this holiday season. Our Savior is born, Hallelujah!

Vivat Jesus!
Greg



Field Agent – Larry Kennedy Christmas Season Thoughts



As Knights, we emphasize the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas. In fact, keeping Christ at the center of everything we do is a year-round mission. Whenever we serve our parish or community, we serve Christ. I also see my service to families as a way to honor him. When I sit down with a family and help them ensure their financial protection, I am serving his Church. I think about this often, and as I look back on the year – reminiscing on all of the relationships I have made with Knights and the security I have helped provide them and their families, I am incredibly grateful.

Now, I ask you – as we close out 2024 and as you spend additional time with your family, consider how any changes from the past year might affect your life insurance portfolio. Even joyous occasions like buying a new house or sending a kid to college this fall can impact your insurance needs. Are you certain your current coverage is adequate and up to date? What would your family's financial situation be this time next year if the unimaginable happened to you or your spouse?

If your answers to these questions are not certain, I encourage you to set up time to meet with me. Let's work together to create a plan that would not only help protect your family but give you the peace of mind and security you all deserve.

Meanwhile, may you each have a holy and peaceful Christmas season with your loved ones. Let's continue to focus on Jesus through the end of this year. And let's pray for one another — especially for those who may be struggling in any way during the holidays.

If there is any way I can offer help, please reach out to me.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Vivat Jesus!

Insurance products offered through Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

**For more information
contact: Larry Kennedy, FICF,
MDRT
407-579-9888
lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org**



Council 11961 Officers 2025-2026



Grand Knight Darren Molony Financial Sec. Mike Gossman Deputy GK John Picucci Chancellor Chris Grecek Recorder Tom Flemming Treasurer John Thomas Advocate Phil Lajeunesse



Inside Guard Joe Beck Outside Guard Tony Flynn 1 Year Trustee Ron Kiceina 2 Year Trustee Joe Jurec 3 Year Trustee Dr. Jim St. John Lecturer Dr. Jim St. John Warden Bob Stearns



So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **James 2:17**

Council 11961 Chaplain & Directors



Chaplain Fr. Robert Marciniak Program Director John Picucci Life Director Mike Gossman Family Director Darren Molony Faith Director Paul Vicario Community Director Chris Grecek
 johnpicucci@yahoo.com Gossmanmike@gmail.com dmolony@proton.me pvcrosscap@comcast.net cgrecek40@gmail.com



**“AND WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR
THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM” (ROMANS 8:28)**

Dec 2025 Calendar

Mon, Dec 1, 2025
 Thur Dec 4, 2025
 Sun Dec 7, 2025
 Sun Dec 14, 2025
 Tues Dec 16, 2025
 Wed Dec 24, 2025
 Thur Dec 25, 2025

6:00pm- 7:00pm
 6:00pm – 7:00pm
 10:00am – 11:00am
 12:00pm- 6:00pm
 4:30pm – 6:30pm
 All Day
 All Day

Officers Meeting at the Monastery
 Business Meeting at the Monastery
 Mass – St Joseph Monastery
 Christmas Pot Luck - Grecek Home
 Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
 Christmas Eve Day
 Christmas Day

December 2025						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan 2026 Calendar

Thur Jan 1, 2026
 Thur Jan 1, 2026
 Sun Jan 4, 2026
 Tues Jan 20, 2026

All Day
 6:00pm – 7:00pm
 10:00am – 11:00am
 4:30pm – 6:30pm

New Years Day
 Business Meeting at the Monastery
 Mass – St Joseph Monastery
 Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)

January 2026						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Lest We Forget

On November 1st we honored those who served in the Armed forces, Policemen, Firemen, and First responders. In past years we paid tribute to Charlie Miller, Tom Kozak, Paul Przybysz, Rich Friese, and Al Saccovino.

This year we honor Nestor Ramos, pictured here with his wife Gigi and Father Manny.

Nestor served in the US Navy 1977-1981 as a Corpsman 2nd class. Later he joined the New York State Police from 1984 to 2011, retiring as a Senior Investigator.

During his tenure with NYS Police, he was a first responder on site at the Twin Towers. He was part of the bucket brigade detail at ground zero then became the State Police liaison with FEMA assisting with the transportation of equipment to the ground zero site.

We are proud to know Nestor and have him as our Brother.



**Knights of
 Columbus®**
**Florida State
 Council Raffle**

2025-26 Charity Raffle Prizes

First Prize: \$25,000

Second Prize: \$5,000

Third Prize (2): \$1,000

\$3/ticket or \$10 per book of 4

Drawing Saturday, May 23, 2026 @ State Convention in Orlando

GROUND BREAKING



On Sunday, Nov 2nd many gathered to witness a ground breaking ceremony. Since 2007, the St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery Superiors (Fathers Joseph. Slawomir, Arthur, Chris and Robert) and Brother Patrick have been raising funds to erect a community center. After many years and much hard work securing permits, construction has been approved and hopefully work will soon begin.



If you are over 18 years of age; a citizen of the country in which you reside; a practical Catholic in union with the Holy See; and you are a Third Degree member in good standing, it's time to consider joining the ranks of the Fourth Degree. To learn more about the Patriotic Degree and how to join its ranks, contact:

SK Ramon Marrero 386-793-2251





Knights of Columbus Potluck Christmas Party

When: Sunday 12/14/2025

Time: 12:00 Noon – 6:00pm

Where: Chris and Marianne Grecek's Home
76 New Leatherwood Dr
Palm Coast, FL 32137

The party is for all Knights of Columbus members along with their spouses and family members. Everyone, please bring either an appetizer, side dish, or dessert. We will be providing all of the drinks for the party.

Please **RSVP** by clicking on the signup link, which will be provided in a future email, **by Thursday 12/11/2025**. If you have problems with the signup link, contact me at cgrecek40@gmail.com or by text at (703) 895-5651 with the number attending along with what you are bringing and I will sign you up.





OUR NOVEMBER KNIGHT OF THE MONTH JOHN THOMAS

Arranging and organizing a Golf Tournament takes much preparing. There are websites to build, sponsors to convince to donate, a course to choose, advertising to build, donations as baskets and art work to present, a meal to plan that satisfies everyone, golfers to sign up and on and on.

Brother John did have a team working with him including Brothers Mike, Fred and John along with Karen and Cindy from the Monastery.

Brother John however, chaired the Tournament and it was a great success allowing our council to donate \$6000.00 to Farther Robert's building fund. John also was able to plead with our Lord to provide perfect weather.

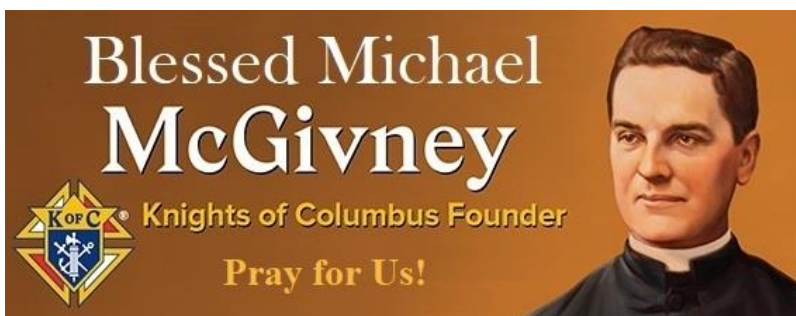
Thank you, John, for all your hard work.



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Those who have reached the age of 65 and have been a member of the order for 25 consecutive years are designated as Honorary Members.

November 2nd was Brother John's night. Along with being Knight of the Month, Brother Chris presented Brother John with an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.





Knights of Columbus Council 11961

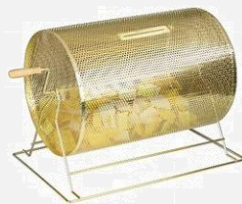
'300 Club'

Knights of Columbus St. Mary Korona are selling '300 Club' raffle tickets for the 2026 calendar year. Tickets will be sold to the Monastery community and the public for \$25.00 each. A maximum of 300 tickets will be sold!! Ticket sales will begin at St. Joseph's Carmelite Monastery on the week-end of November 1 - 2, 2025.

Starting in January and throughout 2026, St. Mary' Council 11961 will have a drawing on the first Thursday of the month at the conclusion of the Council 11961 business meeting.

- **Each month four winners will be drawn. Each winner receives \$50.00*.**
- **Bonus Drawing: an additional ticket will be drawn to win \$100* at the end of each quarter of the year (March, June, September, December)**
- **In December, a sixth ticket will be drawn to win a grand prize of \$500*.**
- **Tickets can be purchased during the year until 300 are sold. Tickets purchased after any month's drawing will only be eligible for the remaining months of the calendar year (\$25.00 ticket price is not pro-rated).**
- **Winners need not be present at the drawing but be sure you completely fill out the address portion of your ticket.**

- * Each ticket holder is eligible to win multiple (53) times during the year (12 drawings a year, ticket holders are eligible to win each month).



- * You can get your tickets from any Knight of Columbus (just look for the blue K of C shirts)!

*Tickets are also available at the Monastery office (M-F)
OR contact Grand Knight Darren Molony at 203-241-8034

Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase tickets.

Makes a great Christmas, birthday or anniversary gift!

For more detailed information, visit <https://council11961.org/index.php/300-club/>

POPE FRANCIS AND POPE JOHN PAUL II CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

“JOY, PRAYER, AND GRATITUDE
ARE THREE WAYS THAT
PREPARE US TO EXPERIENCE
CHRISTMAS IN AN
AUTHENTIC WAY.”

Pope Francis

Aleteia

“THE MESSAGE OF THE
CHRISTMAS TREE...IS THAT
LIFE IS ‘EVERGREEN’ IF ONE
GIVES: NOT SO MUCH MATERIAL
THINGS, BUT OF ONESELF:
IN FRIENDSHIP AND SINCERE
AFFECTION, AND FRATERNAL
HELP AND FORGIVENESS, IN
SHARED TIME AND RECIPROCAL
LISTENING.”

Pope John Paul II

Aleteia

December Birthdays



Frank McNally
Alex Saccovino
David Baile
Robert Cortez

12-03
12-04
12-07
12-08

Willia Lindroth
W. Nigel Powell
Fred Harting
Nestor Ramos

12-08
12-09
12-16
12-21



300 CLUB WINNERS

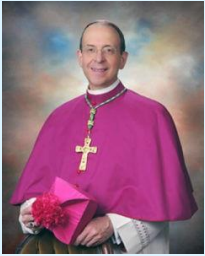
October \$50 Winners

#274 Gloria Sacks
#207 Bob Dumbugh
#23 Dan Durack
#153 Eva Marotti



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (December)

A monthly reflection and practical challenge from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



"Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Gospel for Dec. 7, Mt 3:10)

In these reflections over the past year, we have meditated on the importance of our faith bearing fruit in good works. In a way, this Gospel passage, quoting

St. John the Baptist, might seem out of place during Advent. But throughout this season, we reflect not only on Christ's coming in the incarnation, but also his second coming in

judgment at the end of the world. Let us pray and work to ensure we lead truly faithful and fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

This month, I challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the four last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — to better prepare yourself for eternity.

Questions for Reflection:

- Do I live with my sights set on heaven?
- Am I aware of the reality of hell?
- Do I live my life so as to be prepared for my death and judgment?



This November 2nd was a busy meeting night for GK Darren.

He presented Brother Patrick with a document celebrating his 35th Anniversary as a religious. Brother Patrick has been a stalwart member of the Monastery and was instrumental in the Council's move.

At the same meeting, District Deputy Greg Gully presented Darren with a Star Council award.

GK Darren has done an exemplary job in his second term as Grand Knight. His leadership and example have brought us through difficult times without losing a step in enabling us to accomplish our goals.



On October 31, St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery invited all children to come dressed as Saints rather than the typical costumes. The youngsters were certainly imaginative and made you smile.

Our Council donate \$200 towards food and gifts for the children.

ON SUNDAY, NOV. 2ND WE AGAIN MADE OUT QUOTA OF 10 BLOOD DONATIONS. THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED. THE NEXT DRIVE WILL BE ON SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH.



PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR SICK LIST

If you know of any Brother or family member in distress, please notify one of the council officers.

MARY, QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS
intercede to Jesus for those in need of his healing.

Nacci Family, Eric Bonilla, Mel Young, Nestor Ramos, Joan Beck,
Bob Stearns and son, Peter Capozzi, Judd McNally, Nigel Powell and daughter Megan Cuna
Joe Rios Family, Dr. Joe Moore, Joe Pimentel, PDD Kevin Ryan's son Shane

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servant for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.



Prayer for the Healing of Loved Ones

Almighty God, look with mercy and kindness on our loved ones who are sick, especially those listed here. Grant them good health. Send your holy Angels to watch over them. Protect them from danger, and keep them safe from lasting injury or harm. May the life-giving grace of Your Divine Son relieve their suffering and bring them to a full recovery. Embrace them with Your constant love, and with the power of Christ's healing presence, that Your bountiful goodness may be their source of comfort, strength and joy. Amen.

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

O Loving Father, Source of all life, please accompany Your servants, listed here, from this earth, to the Kingdom of heavenly peace, rest and eternal life that You have prepared for us. Forgive any sins that have been committed, and welcome these departed souls into the joyful embrace of Your never-ending love. Amen

Pray for our Deceased Brothers



Let us remember and pray for our Brothers that are no longer with us, Norman Mugford, Paul Przybysz, Richard Rentz, Gus Simms, Mel Vevera, Rev. Francis Zammit and also our former District Deputy Paul Gloekler, and our founder Hank Kesselring. May our Lord welcome them home.



Pray for Vocations

"The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons."
St. John Paul II





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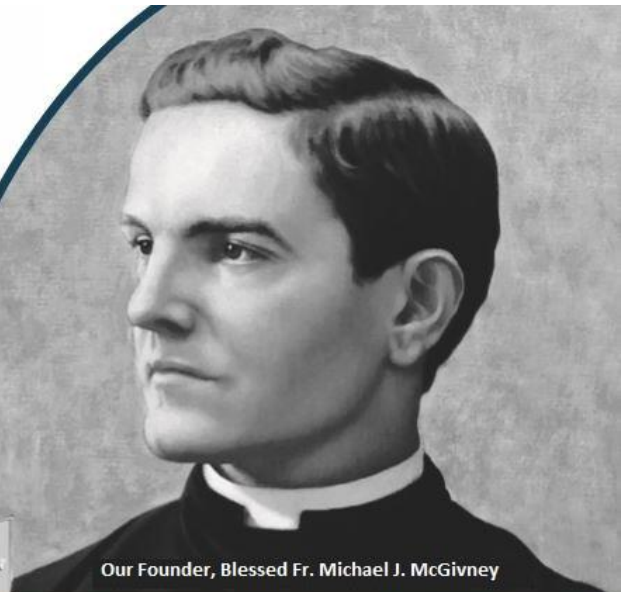
Charity
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GIFT of becoming a Knight.
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