



The

Korona

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

February 2026

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

Charity
Unity
Fraternity



**We adore you, O Christ,
and bless you. Because by
your holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.**

Stations of the Cross liturgy

Our council had a joyful January and now look forward to entering the Lenten season in February.

This February we begin with a **Community Breakfast** on **Sunday, February 1st** at the **Monastery** after the 10 am Mass. Our **Hot Smokin' Knights** crew will be heading the event but we will need many Knights to volunteer in order to pull off the event. We will not be selling tickets to the breakfast but will rely on diners' donations. Please register on the **SignUpGenius** website and then look for Brother Ken's email announcement to volunteer.

Our **council business meeting** will be on **Thursday, February 5th at 6 pm** in the **Monastery pavilion**. There are two urgent issues that will need to be addressed at our meeting. The first is to elect council **delegates** for the **Knights of Columbus Florida State Convention** which will take place in **Orlando** the weekend of **May 22- 24, 2026**. The second issue is to begin planning the **slate of new officers** for the next fraternal year. *Of most importance is the fact that neither I, nor Brother John Picucci, will be returning to our roles as Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight.* This means that

two other brothers must step up to fill these vacancies or our council will cease to exist. PLEASE strongly consider running for either of these positions!

Ash Wednesday is February 18th this year. On **Friday, February 20th**, we will begin our Fish Fry meals at St. Joseph's Monastery. We will continue the tradition of **six** successive Fish Fries culminating on **Friday, March 27th**. **Brothers Chris Grecek and Don Worthington** have stepped up to **co-chair** the Fish Fries this year after **Brother Joe Marotti** successfully spearheaded the event for the past few years. Thank you, brothers! If you would like to join the Fish Fry team, let Chris or Don know. This activity always brings us all closer together as we work hard and get to know one another better! The team looks forward to providing good food and good fellowship to our community!

During January, we held our 1st – 3rd Degree Exemplification for our council in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel (monastery) Chapel. We welcomed new Brother Knight: **Noel Deguzman**. I am impressed with Noel's desire to help others, his deep Catholic faith, and commitment to be an active member of our council.

Thank you, brothers, for all that you are doing to support our charity, foster unity, and build up our fraternity.

Vivat Jesus!

Darren

Chaplain's Message



As we gather today, the Christmas season is still with us, not just in our memories and decorations, but in something more enduring: the light of Christ. The Magi have returned home, and the star that guided them has disappeared. Yet the Child Jesus they found is still present, still

calling for our attention, still inviting us to get to know him and follow him.

The Church invites us to linger in this moment.

The extraordinary has passed, and what remains is ordinary, daily life, now touched by the revelation of God.

It is during these days "after Epiphany" that we learn the true rhythm of Christian living faith revealed and lived – not as a spectacle but as quiet fidelity.

As Knights, this is our calling. We are not called to perform grand gestures for recognition, but rather to carry Christ's light into our homes, families, workplaces, and communities. We support one another, protect life, serve those in need, and perform small acts of daily charity and presence. There, the light of Christ continues to shine.

Now, we stand at the beginning of a new calendar year. While the world may view this as an opportunity to make resolutions or plans, we see it as a continuation of the same call, presence, and light. The new year begins not with something new to prove but with what has already been given.

The light that appeared in Bethlehem continues to quietly illuminate our hearts and work, ready to guide us in the months ahead.

As Knights, may we keep this light alive in our lives, not seeking applause but simply allowing God's love to flow through us – in ordinary, faithful ways. In this way, the Epiphany continues, the new year begins, and our service to God and neighbor remains steadfast.

Thank you, brothers, for your witness, presence, and dedication.

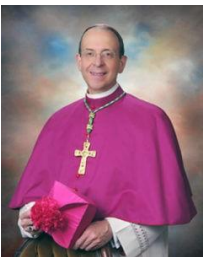
May the light of Christ guide us gently, steadily, and faithfully in all that we do.

Blessings

Father Robert

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (February 2026)

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



"The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." (Gospel for Jan. 25, Mt 4:16)

Why would anyone sit in darkness? When it is dark, we ordinarily seek a source of light so that we may see – and be seen. Unless asleep, one who remains in the dark typically wishes not

to be noticed. When we immerse ourselves in unrepented sin, we effectively enter in darkness. Like Adam and Eve after the fall, we hide from God. But Jesus calls us forth into the light, inviting us to repent of our sins, so that we might

embrace Christ, the light of the world, who leads us to everlasting life.

This month, I challenge you to make an examination of conscience every day – perhaps using *A Guide to Confession*, published by the Order's Catholic Information Service (www.kofc.org/cis) – and to make a good confession at least once during the month.

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?

District Deputy Message



Brothers,

As we move into the month of February, we are reminded that this is a season marked by love, sacrifice, and service. Winter is still upon us, yet our mission as Knights of Columbus continues to shine brightly through our charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. February calls us to reflect on Christian love—not merely in words, but in action. Our councils across the district continue to live this out through works of mercy, support for our parishes, and outreach to those most in need. Whether it is Coats for Kids, food drives, parish support, or community assistance, your dedication reflects the heart of our Order and the example of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.

As we approach the Lenten season, I encourage every council to prepare spiritually as well as fraternally. Lent offers us an opportunity to renew our faith, strengthen our prayer lives, and recommit ourselves to serving Christ through service to others. Consider participating together in Stations of the Cross, Holy Hours, or parish missions, and invite fellow Knights and their families to grow spiritually as one brotherhood.

Membership remains the lifeblood of our Order. Each Knight has a responsibility to invite Catholic men to join

us in this mission. February is an ideal time to reflect on who we can personally invite—men who are already serving in our parishes, young fathers seeking fraternity, or men looking to grow deeper in their faith. Remember, an invitation from a brother Knight is often the spark that leads to a lifetime of service.

I also wish to thank our Grand Knights, officers, and program directors for their continued leadership and dedication. Your commitment ensures that our councils remain strong, vibrant, and faithful to the principles that have guided us for over 140 years. I pray new Brothers consider stepping into officers' roles as we near council election time. Please pray on filling a position.

As District Deputy, I am proud of the work being done throughout our district. Let us continue to support one another, strengthen our councils, and remain visible witnesses of Christ in our parishes and communities.

May God bless you and your families, keep you safe during these winter months, and guide us as we continue to serve Him faithfully.

Vivat Jesus!
Greg Gully

Field Agent – Larry Kennedy “Dividends”



It feels like the new year just began, and yet we're already here in February!

Maybe you've set resolutions and goals for the year. Are financial goals on that list?

Every year, at a minimum, I recommend reviewing your finances. There are four things to include in your review.

First, have you experienced any major life events in the last year? Things like getting married, welcoming a baby, changing careers or purchasing a home are good reasons to consider life insurance.

If you already have insurance, make sure your policy matches your current financial goals and responsibilities. Consider, too, that if your policy is dependent on your current employer, you could be underinsured.

Second, review your retirement goals. Do you know how much money you'll need to retire comfortably? And if so, are you on track?

Third, the new year is a good time to review your will or trust. Have you experienced a recent life event that would make you want or need to make adjustments? Now is the time to check.

Finally, consider if you're missing an opportunity to grow your assets. With faith-based investment options through our affiliate, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (“KoCAA”), you can pursue your financial goals with products that adhere to Catholic investment guidelines. Our Agency can connect you with one of our team members that is registered to offer you investment options through KoCAA.

It's not too late to make a resolution to review your finances!

I'd love to sit down with you, discuss your goals and conduct a complimentary needs analysis. If you have any questions, please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

Post Script: You can visit KofC.org and KoCAA.org for detailed information on what each of KofC and KoCAA can offer members directly.

Vivat Jesus!
Larry Kennedy

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

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)

Vocations are *Everybody's* Business. Pray for Vocations!

Knights of Columbus
Family Breakfast
All Are Welcome!
FREE Breakfast (Donations Accepted)

Pancakes
 Scrambled Eggs
 Sausage
 Bacon
 Juice
 Coffee



Sunday, February 1st
After the 10AM K of C Mass
Donations benefit the Monastery!

www.council11961.org

**PRAY THE
 ROSARY AT
 ST JOSEPH
 CARMELITE
 MONASTERY
 MON-FRI 8:00AM
 SAT 8:30AM**



FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT.
WHERE – AT THE MONASTERY PAVILION
WHEN – AFTER STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MENU – COD, FRIES, COLESLAW, SOFT
DRINKS’
WHO – ALL ARE WELCOME
COST - \$15.00



EXEMPLIFICATION FOR NOEL DEGUZMAN

On Saturday February 17, we welcomed Brother Noel DeGuzman to our Council in a ceremony led by DD Greg Gully. Presenters of Chasrity, Unity and Freturnity were Deacon John Harvey, Brothers Paul Vicario and John Picucci. Chaplain Robert opened the ceremony with a prayer and GK Darren Molony closed with brief remarks. Brother Noel and his beautiful family then joined us for refreshments in the pavilion.





THE WAY OF THE CROSS

**Stations of The Cross,
Fridays, 3:00PM during
Lent, at St. Joseph
Carmelite Monastery**



Feb 2026 Calendar

Thur, Jan 29, 2026	6:00PM – 7:00pm	Officers Meeting at the Pavilion
Sun Feb 1, 2026	10:00am – 11:00am	Mass – St Joseph Monastery
Sun Feb 1, 2026	11:00am- 12:30pm	Breakfast – St Joseph Pavilion
Thur Feb 5, 2026	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Business Meeting at the Pavilion
Tues, Feb 17, 2026	4:30pm – 6:30pm	Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM, Parish Hall)
Wed, Feb 18, 2026	All Day	Ash Wednesday
Fri, Feb 20, 2026	After Stations	Fish Fry
Thur Feb 26, 2026	6:00pm-7:00pm	March Officers Meeting
Fri, Feb 27, 2026	After Stations	Fish Fry

February 2026

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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mar 2026 Calendar

Sun Mar 1, 2026	10:00am – 11:00am	Mass St, Joseph Monastery
Thur Mar 5, 2026	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Business Meeting at the Monastery
Fri Mar 6, 2026	After Stations	Fish Fry
Fri Mar 13, 2026	After Stations	Fish Fry
Tue, Mar 17, 2026	All Day	St Patrick's Day
Tue, Mar 17, 2026	4:30pm-6-30pm	Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
Wed Mar 19, 2026	All Day	St. Joseph's Day
Fri Mar 20, 2026	After Stations	Fish Fry
Fri, Mar 27, 2026	After Stations	Fish Fry

March 2026

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	1	2	3	4



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

2025-26 Charity Raffle Prizes

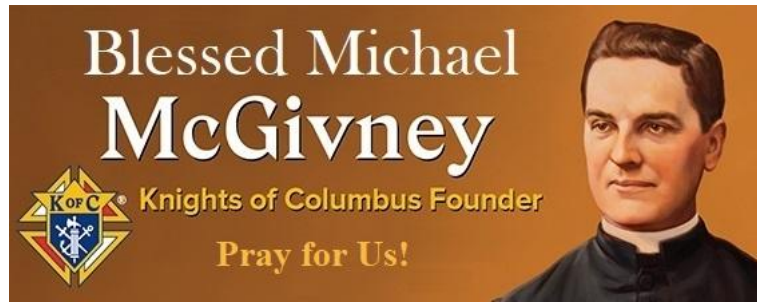
First Prize: \$25,000

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



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

ST MARY COUNCIL 11961 BLOOD DRIVE



The first Blood Drive of 2026, on January 4 was successful since we once again met the 10 donor objective. A faulty blood tester had prevented more donors. Pictured below are Brad Vevera, (PGK Mel Vever's son), Melissa Gossman, Tom Conway, Tom Kozak, and Joe Galetta.



February Birthdays



Paul Schulten 02-08

Darren Molony 02-11

Theus Scott Munds 02-14

Gary Anderson 02-25

Dr. William Moore 02-25



300 CLUB WINNERS

December \$50 Winners

#274 Gloria Sacks

#45 Dr. Jim St John

#293 Judy Schulten

Brother Patrick (honorary)

4th Quarter Winner \$100

#264 Leo Mauricio

GRAND PRICE WINNER

#281 Joe Jurec \$500.00



"OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST" is a powerful and fitting exhortation for the KofC in this Jubilee Year. As men of faith, the Knights are called to welcome Christ into every aspect of their lives, into their homes, their parishes, and their communities. By echoing the words of St. John Paul II, we are reminded to live boldly and faithfully, opening our hearts to Christ's truth, mercy, and love. Worn as a pin, it becomes a visible sign of commitment to evangelization, service, and the defense of life; encouraging all to embrace and share the Gospel in this special year of grace.



"JESUS IN MARY'S WOMB" is a profound symbol of the sacredness of life from its very inception. His presence as a child, unborn, reflects the divine value of every human life. The Knights of Columbus draws strength and inspiration from this mystery, standing firmly for the right to life from conception to natural death. As Mary carried the Savior of the world in her womb, so too must society recognize and protect the dignity of every human being at all stages of life.

So, OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST and he shall enter.

**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, Mel Young, Nestor Ramos, Joan Beck, Tom Flemming,
Bob Stearns and son, Peter Capozzi, Judd McNally, Nigel Powell's 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



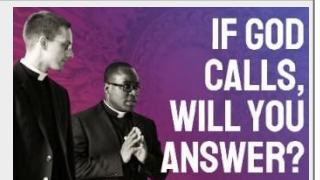
Pray for our Deceased Brothers

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



Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intention

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



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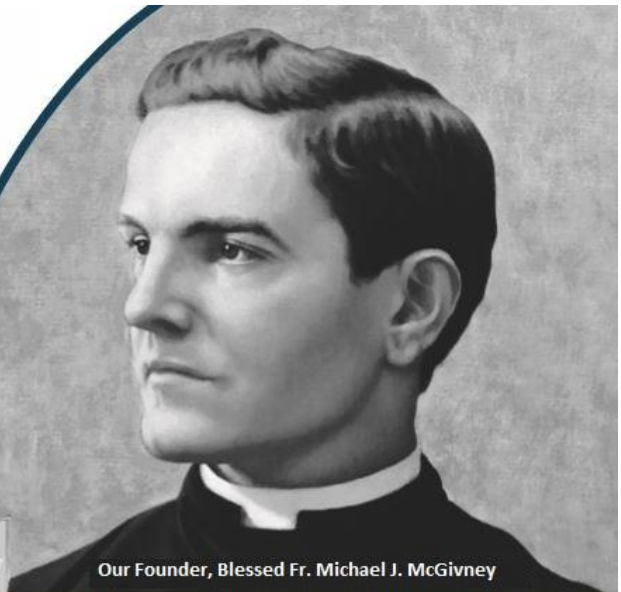
Charity
Unity
Fraternity

Offer a Catholic gentleman the
GIFT of becoming a Knight.
Please use the e-membership
function on KOF.C.ORG/JOINUS



Different for a reason

Discover the Catholic difference
of doing business with the
Knights of Columbus.



Our Founder, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Larry Kennedy, Field Agent
407-579-9888
lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org



LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE RETIREMENT PLANNING