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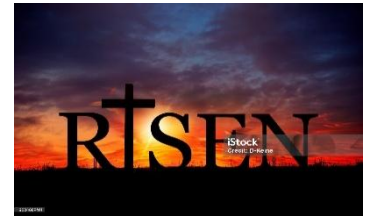
Korona

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

April 2026

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

Charity
Unity
Fraternity



**Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia! our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!**

Easter hymn

Our Lenten season ends this month and the joy of **Easter** will be ours on **April 5th**! We will have completed our journey in the desert on

Good Friday and come through it changed men. We will have grown deeper in our faith, hope, and love for Christ and our fellow man. At Easter, we will celebrate our Lord's resurrection and embrace the redemption that is ours through him. **He is risen, brothers, alleluia!**

Our next **Knights of Columbus Mass** will be on **EASTER - Sunday, April 5th at 10 am**. Please join us, along with your wife and family members, for this special Mass. There will **not** be any refreshments provided after Mass this Sunday.

As my tenure as Grand Knight comes to a close soon, I will use my last three newsletter messages to spotlight and thank brothers who have made an impact on me and on our council.

This month I would like to recognize **John Ruck**. John was financial secretary of our council from 2020 to 2022. In the fall of 2021, when I was treasurer and John was financial secretary, he suffered a stroke and realized he could no longer fulfill his duties. He and

GK Rich Friese asked me if I would be willing to take over the reins for him. I agreed and for several months, John patiently mentored me in the new role of financial secretary. He taught me the ins and outs of the K of C Supreme website as well as the Florida state website. He explained everything in detail and answered all of my questions as I learned my new job. John never lost his patience with me and always praised my progress just as an older brother would. Long after he surrendered the position of FS to me, John made himself available to me for many phone calls and interspersed those calls with many pearls of wisdom about being a good financial secretary and a good Knight.

Although he was being challenged by his own health crisis, he never stopped helping others. It is men like John Ruck who make being a Knight of Columbus a true blessing and teach us the real meaning of fraternity. John has transferred his membership to a council closer to his new home in Daytona Beach but his example of being a Catholic gentleman continues to inspire me, and others, here at the Monastery.

Vivat Jesus!

Darren

Chaplain's Message



Dear Brothers,

It is always a joy to gather with the Knights of Columbus here at the monastery.

As your chaplain, I am grateful for the opportunity to share this evening with you — in prayer, in fraternity, and in the common desire to serve Christ and His

Church.

Our meeting takes place during the season of Lent. Lent invites the Church to slow down a little, to return to what is essential.

Prayer becomes more attentive.

Charity becomes more concrete.

We try to look again at our lives in the light of the Gospel.

In this sense, the spirit of Lent is not far from the spirit that inspired the Knights of Columbus from the beginning.

Blessed Michael McGivney understood that faith naturally leads to care for others — especially for families, for those in need, and for members of the community who might otherwise be left alone. Charity is never something abstract.

It takes shape in simple and faithful actions.

Very soon the Church will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the patron of our monastery. St. Joseph is a quiet figure in the Gospel. We don't hear many words from him. Yet his presence is strong and faithful. He protects the Holy Family, he works with his hands, he listens to God and acts when it is needed.

For that reason St. Joseph is a beautiful example for Christian men. He doesn't seek attention, but he takes responsibility. He protects what has been entrusted to him. His strength appears in fidelity, in work, and in trust in God.

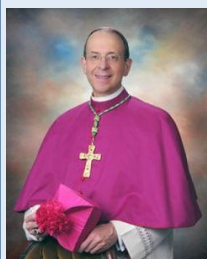
In many ways, the vocation of the Knights of Columbus reflects something of that same spirit. Through your fraternity, your service, and your support for families and the Church, you continue that quiet but very real work of protection and care.

As we continue our journey through Lent, and as we approach the feast of St. Joseph, it is a good moment to ask for his intercession — for our families, for the Church, and for all the men who seek to live their faith with courage and humility. Like St. Joseph, may we learn to listen to God, and then simply do - what He asks of us.

Father Robert Marciniak

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (April 2026)

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



Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Gospel for April 19, Lk 24:35)

The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and the Eucharist is his fulfillment of that promise. We encounter his presence most profoundly in the Eucharist, where he is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine. The disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus was no ordinary meal, but an encounter with Christ, who invites us, too, to enter into communion with him through the Eucharist.

This month, I challenge you to remain in prayer and adoration for several minutes after Mass to grow in awareness of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

Questions for Reflection:

- Do you fully realize it is the true body and blood of Christ that you receive in the Eucharist?
- Do you habitually pray in thanksgiving after Communion for this immeasurable gift?
- Do you consistently participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days?
- Do you make an effort to attend more frequently, so that you might avail yourself of the graces of this great sacrament?

District Deputy Message



Brothers,

As we enter the holy season of [Easter](#), we are reminded that this is the greatest celebration of our Catholic faith. After the sacrifices and reflections of Lent, Easter proclaims

the victory of Christ over sin and death. It is a time of renewal, hope, and new life for the Church and for each of us.

This season also reminds us of the important role we play as members of the Knights of Columbus. Through our charity, unity, and fraternity, we bring the light of the Resurrection into our parishes and communities. Whether it is supporting our priests, serving those in need, or helping our parish families celebrate this joyful season, our presence as Knights makes a real difference.

I want to thank all the councils in the district for the great work you continue to do. Your commitment to faith, family, and service reflects the very mission of our Order. As we celebrate Easter, let us renew our dedication to the principles that define us.

This is also a wonderful time to invite other Catholic men to join us. When men see the good works of the Knights, they often want to be part of it. I encourage every council to continue reaching out and inviting new members so that our Order can continue to grow and serve the Church.

May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your homes and your councils. Thank you for all you do for the Church, your parish, and your communities.

Vivat Jesus!
Greg

Field Agent – Larry Kennedy “Financial Goals”



Are you on track to reach your financial goals? Are you unsure how to begin setting those goals?

As your agent, I’m dedicated to helping you find the right insurance solutions, no matter your stage of life. Whether you are in your working years with young kids, living paycheck to paycheck, or knocking on the door of retirement, I’m excited to help you protect what matters most and build financial security with insurance-based solutions tailored to meet your priorities.

The first thing to consider is whether your family would be financially taken care of if something happened to you. Would they struggle to meet the mortgage payments or to pay off other debts?

Term life insurance can be an affordable option to give you protection in case of the unexpected. You’ll also have the option to convert to a permanent plan in the future without additional underwriting. Terms and conditions may apply.

Second, start preparing for retirement, no matter how far away it may seem. The Knights of Columbus offers annuity solutions to help provide you with retirement income you can’t outlive, guaranteed.

Finally, disability income insurance. For many men and women, regardless of their phase in life, protecting their income is their greatest financial need. What would you do if you were no longer able to work? Don’t overlook how disability income insurance may be able to help you.

I understand that your financial needs are not just unique but change over time. I’m here to help you find the right solutions today and to walk with you as your insurance needs evolve.

If you have any questions, please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

Vivat Jesus!
Larry Kennedy

** 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
Darren Molony



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

johnpicucci@yahoo.com



Life Director
Mike Gossman

Gossmanmike@gmail.com



Family Director
Darren Molony

dmolony@proton.me



Faith Director
Paul Vicario

pvcrosscap@comcast.net



Community Director
Chris Grecek

cgrecek40@gmail.com

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PAVILION PROGRESS

Work continues on the Pavilion. Brother Joe Marotti had contracted to get the roof insulated. We emptied the area and the contractor sprayed the ceiling. Prior to this, the entire pavilion had been sealed to prevent further influx of rodents. Since the congregation uses the pavilion, future steps are somewhat delayed



ST MARY OF KORONA BLOOD DRIVE



Our Blood Drive continues. On this March 1st Sunday we surpassed our previous donor days. 15 volunteers donate blood. According to the [American Red Cross](#), one donation can save as many as three lives, and someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds.



Lenten Fish Fry

The Fish Frys during Lent continue. God was certainly with us this March 1st. Rain had been predicted, so the team took steps to prepare the meal and serve our guests if and when it rained. Well, the Lord kept us dry until we had served all and stored our equipment.



We served about 70 meals. Rather than charge guests, a contribution box was placed at the entrance of the Pavilion. The generosity of our guests enabled the council to raise \$500 for St Gerard's Campus.





Join Us During Lent

Saint Joseph Carmelite Monastery

141 Carmelite Dr, Bunnell, FL 32110



*By Your holy cross,
You have redeemed
the world.*

St. Joseph's Monastery Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Every Friday during Lent (Good Friday 4:00 PM)

**PRAY THE ROSARY AT
ST JOSEPH CARMELITE MONASTERY
MON-FRI 8:00AM, WED 5:00PM
SAT 8:30AM**



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

**Proposed Slate of Officers
2026-2027**



**Grand Knight
Joe Marotti**



**Financial Sec.
Mike Gossman**



**Deputy GK
Chris Grecek**



**Chancellor
Nestor Ramos**



**Recorder
Darren Molony**



**Treasurer
John Thomas**



**Advocate
Phil Lajeunesse**



**Inside Guard
Paul Vicario**



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**1 Year Trustee
Joe Jurec**



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Dr. Jim St. John**



**3 Year Trustee
John Picucci**



**Lecturer
Dr. Jim St. John**



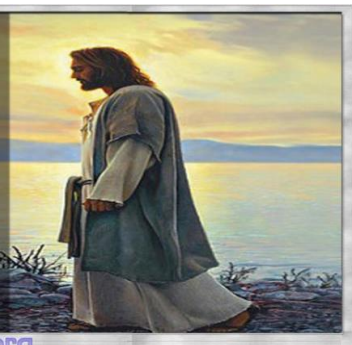
**Warden
Deacon John**



**"My grace is sufficient for
you, for my power is
made perfect in
weakness." Therefore I
will boast all the more
gladly about my
weaknesses, so that
Christ's power may rest
on me.**

2 Cor 12:9

CatholicGallery.org



THE WAY OF THE CROSS



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



April 2026

Sun April 5, 2025 10:00am – 11:00am
Thur. April 9, 2026 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Sat April 18, 2026 5:30pm – 9:30pm
Tues April 21, 2026 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Easter Mass St, Joseph Monastery
Business Meeting at the Pavillion
4th Degree Chaplain Dinner/Dance (Parish Hall)
Assembly 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1	2

May 2026

Sun May 3, 2026 10:00am – 11:00am
Thur. May 7, 2026 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Sun May 10, 2026 All Day
Tues May 19, 2026 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Mon May 25, 2026 All Day

K of C Mass St Joseph Monastery
Business Meeting at the Pavilion
Mother's Day
Assembly 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
Memorial Day

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	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	5	6

An Easter Prayer

*That you gave your one and only Son,
that we might be called your children too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and
grace of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
for your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon
your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
and tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord,
Amen.*



O Lady of Guadalupe,

*Mother of Mercy and Mother of the Americas,
I come to you today with a trusting heart. You
appeared on Tepeyac to bring comfort, hope, and
healing
to all your children who suffer or feel alone.
Please look upon me with the same tender love. Holy
Mother, wrap me in your mantle of protection.
Intercede for my needs, my family, and all who seek
your help.
Strengthen my faith and bring peace to my heart
O Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe,
guide me closer to Jesus your Son
and help me trust in God's plan with courage and
serenity.*

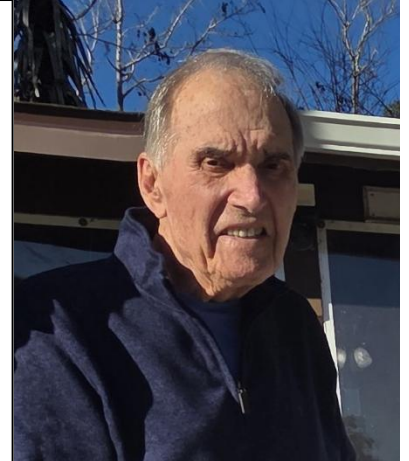
KNIGHT OF THE MONTH



Phill Lajeunesse /Darren Molony

January Knight of the Month is awarded to two deserving Brothers. Brothers Phill Lajeunesse and Brother Mel Young, as was noted in the March newsletter, met with Glenn Shaw and his wife Patty, of the Glenn Shaw Family Foundation.

They related the charitable work of the Knights of Columbus and in particular the funds needed to refurbish the Pavilion at St Joseph Carmelite Monastery. Thanks to their good impression, the Foundation has funded the project. Thanks Phill and Mel for presenting the Council in such a good light



Mel Young



Our February Knight of the Month belongs to Brother and **Crawler Excavator Operator**, Fred Harting. His skill enabled the Monastery to save a substantial amount of money by excavating the pond.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS



On Saturday, Brothers Chris, Mike, and Tony volunteered at a Special Olympics Bocce event at Seabreeze High School. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love. Thanks, Brothers, for representing Council 11961.





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



April Birthdays

<i>Joseph Galetta</i>	04-02
<i>Joseph Rios</i>	04-14
<i>Benjamin Jurec</i>	04-25
<i>Ronald Kiceina</i>	04-28



300 CLUB WINNERS

March \$50 Winners

#189 Marianne Grecek
 #17 Melissa Gossman
 #57 Linda Young
 #101 John Thomas

1st Quarter \$100 Winner

#51 Glenn Shaw



"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, Eric Bonilla, Mel Young, Nestor Ramos, Joe and Joan Beck, Enzo Pistrino
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, Glenn Shaw, Ron Kiceina
Tom Flemming, Dave Norris, Brother Patrick

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



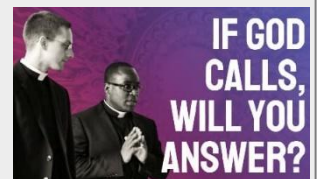
Pray for our Deceased Brothers

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.



The

Korona

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

APRIL 2026

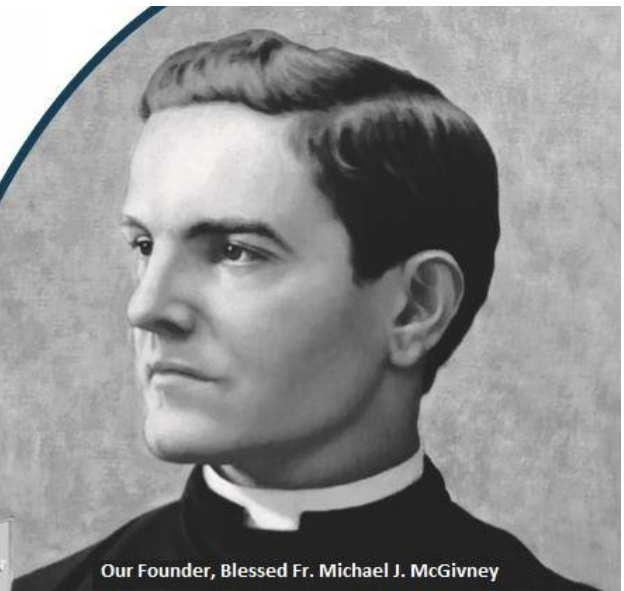
Charity
Unity
Fraternity

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



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