



The

Korona

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

Charity
Unity
Fraternity

JUNE 2026



Grand Knight Message

In service to one. In service to all



"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity."

Psalm 133:1

As I finish my term as your Grand Knight, I realize how true those words from Psalm 133 are. We have remained united through some challenging times during my tenure and come out the other side as stronger men and brothers.

I thank you for the honor and privilege of being the Grand Knight of Council 11961. You supported me and encouraged me throughout the two years, especially at times when I needed it most, and I thank you. I am incredibly proud of all our council has accomplished and I am proud of the Catholic gentlemen you are. You are role models to me as men of faith and service. Thank you for your prayers!

I am excited for Joe Marotti as he takes over as Grand Knight and know that he will lead us to stronger bonds of fraternity, a deeper commitment to charity, and a greater sense of unity!

For my final spotlight and thank you to brothers who have made an impact on me and on our council, I have chosen **Kevin Ryan**.

Kevin was the District Deputy when I joined St. Mary's Council and continued to be for a number of years. We got to know each other from council meetings and then cooking events over the years. What impressed

me most about Kevin was his undaunting desire to help others and his faith-inspired positive attitude. The perfect qualities of someone who plays Santa Claus each Christmas season!

Kevin was always there when our council needed help making French fries at the Lenten fish fries or helping with our Hot Smokin' Knights events. He rolled up his sleeves and jumped in to work with us. Kevin always encouraged us in our council activities and never let an opportunity go by without telling us we were doing a great job. His meeting messages reminded us that all we did should be rooted in our Catholic faith and done with joy. He was my "go-to" guy whenever I had a question about the inner workings and proper protocols of the Knights of Columbus. He never turns away a request for help.

Kevin taught me that the fraternity we share as Knights is a true blessing – whether working an event, attending a Mass or Holy Hour, sharing a meal, praying for our brothers in distress, or hanging out having a beer – we are connected by our love for Christ and our love for one another. Kevin is a true Knight, an inspiration, and my brother. **HO- HO-HO!**

Vivat Jesus!

Darren

DEACON JOHN'S MESSAGE



Dear Brother Knights,

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son. Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19:26-27)

After this he said I thirst and died. These were his final words...To take care of his mother. WHY?? Because...Mothers represent an unconditional, foundational love that shapes a person's life, providing a safe harbor, selfless nurturing, and a moral compass. They act as a child's first teacher and biggest supporter, fostering self-esteem, empathy, and strength to navigate the world.

As we close out the month in which we celebrated Mother's Day, let us say a prayer for the mothers in our lives:

MOST GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER, we take a moment today to honor all mothers in our prayers, both living and deceased. We thank you for our natural mothers, our foster mothers and our "spiritual mothers," those who may not have children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for children of others of every age and in every state of life.

Almighty Lord we pray...

Blessed be all mothers

Who have come into our lives

Whose kindness, care and loving

Remain with us to guide us in our lives

Thank you for the many life memories,

Advice, laughter, tears and song,

As I fold my hands and close my eyes

I pray Dear Lord thank you for the wonderful mothers

You have Given to all of us here tonight.

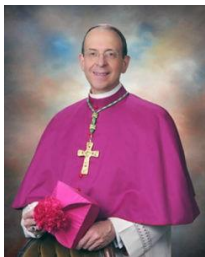
AMEN.

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."

Deacon John

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (June 2026)

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



**"[W]hoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me."
(Gospel for June 28, Mt 10:38)**

Our fallen human condition involves a measure of suffering and trials. Our commitment as disciples of Jesus, Scripture tells us, necessarily means taking up our own crosses willingly. God will grant us the strength to endure all trials if we remain faithful, and our suffering can prove redemptive if we accept it and unite it to the passion of Christ. This doesn't mean we can't take steps to alleviate our suffering, but we are called to courageously bear our crosses,

even when faced with persecution, and to thereby participate in the saving work of Christ.

This month, I challenge you to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day with the intention of uniting your daily sufferings with Christ's passion and in solidarity with all persecuted Christians around the world.

Questions for Reflection:

- Do you carry your cross willingly, or do you feel it is forced upon you?
- Where do you turn when you need help with the weight of your cross? To prayer and the sacraments? To your family, friends and brother Knights?

"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.

District Deputy – Greg Gully



Brothers,

I want to begin by saying thank you. What your council has accomplished this year is something to be proud of.

You have already earned the Founder's Award. That means you have strengthened the protection of Catholic families through our insurance program and showed that we truly live our principle of charity by caring for the future of our widows, our children, and our brother Knights.

You also earned the Columbian Award. That means your council did not stand still. You served your parish, your community, your priests, your families, and those in need. You put faith into action. You carried out the mission of the Knights of Columbus the way Blessed Michael McGivney intended.

Brothers, those are not small accomplishments. Many councils never reach this point. But your council has. And now, you stand at the base of one final mountain. Just two members. Two Catholic men. That is all that stands between this council and Star Council status. Think about that for a moment. After all the programs, all the meetings, all the volunteer hours, all the sacrifices, all the work you have already done, the summit is now in sight.

But mountains are not climbed by admiring them. They are climbed one step at a time. And the beautiful thing is this: we are not asking you to find twenty men. We are asking every brother here to think of one good Catholic man. One man who belongs beside us. One man who loves his faith, his family, his parish, and who is looking for purpose, fraternity, and service.

Two men can change the future of this council. Those two members are not just numbers on a form. They are future program directors. Future grand knights. Future district deputies. They are men who may one day help save a parish project, lead a charitable effort, support a family in crisis, or bring another soul closer to Christ.

Star Council is not about a plaque. It is not about recognition. It is proof that a council is alive. Growing. Evangelizing. Serving.

Brothers, you have already proven you can do great things. The Founder's Award says it. The Columbian Award says it. Now finish the climb. Do not let this year end one step short of the summit. Let us honor Blessed Father McGivney by bringing in those final two men and achieving Star Council together.

Vivat Jesus
Greg Gully DD

Field Agent – Larry Kennedy "June Message"



Many people this time of year are wrapping up spring cleaning around their home. But if you're like me, you might need a little nudge each year — a reminder to get started on that process.

Similarly, we could all use a reminder to do some "spring cleaning" for our finances. Just as spring cleaning in your home might help you realize that a piece of furniture no longer suits your needs, we might also find that it's time to reconsider our financial strategy in light of our current life situation.

For example, have you recently gotten married, welcomed children, or made a career change? Do you have children heading off to college, or are you welcoming any grandchildren? It may be time to think about life insurance.

If you do have life insurance, when's the last time you reviewed your policy? Do you have coverage only through your employer? Now is a great time to ensure it matches your family's current needs.

Have you started preparing for retirement? Whether close to your golden years or still decades away, you can learn more about annuity options that give you a guaranteed income.

Additionally, through our affiliate Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (KoCAA), you can maximize your contributions to your retirement and investment accounts. If you're close to retirement, you want to ensure that you diversify your retirement portfolio and have proper asset allocation that aligns with both your risk and return preferences. KoCAA can help you review your investment strategy to ensure you're on the right track to hitting your retirement goals.

You might find that things have changed in your life since your last "spring cleaning." Even if it's been a while since you last reviewed your financial goals — or even if you're just getting started — I'm here to help. Let's set up a time to talk and make sure you have the coverage you need.

Thank you!

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

For more information contact:
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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



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

Elected 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



Outside Guard
Tony Flynn



1 Year Trustee
Joe Jurec



2 Year Trustee
Dr Jim St John



3 Year Trustee
John Picucci



Lecturer
Dr. Jim St. John



Warden
Deacon John

PAVILION PROGRESS

Our Project Director, Brother Joe Marotti has received qualified estimates and scheduled dates for each contractor to complete the electrical wiring, stud the walls and install the sheet rock. If the “Monastery Faithful” will allow the required access, the Pavilion Project should be completed by the end of May.



Meanwhile, work on the Pavilion is progressing nicely. On Wednesday and Friday, Brother Joe Marotti, with assistance from Brothers John Thomas, John Picucci and Don Worthington installed insulation on all the walls. It is amazing how well the combination of an insulated roof and walls improved the inside temperature. With the promise of an air-conditioner the Pavilion should be quite comfortable.



ST. MARY'S COUNCIL 11961

An award is a recognition given for achievement or excellence.

At the May 7th Business Meeting, DD Greg Gully reminded the Brothers that we needed 2 members to qualify for Star Council. He also commented that we had already received the **Founders Award** and the **Columbian Award**. What challenge remains as of this meeting is the **Father McGivney Award**.

For those unaware, the **Founders' Award** recognizes excellence in the promotion of our insurance and fraternal benefits. All councils must host/promote at least two* Fraternal Benefit Events during the fraternal year. The **Columbian Award** recognizes

excellence in your council's programming and charitable outreach. To earn this award your council must conduct and report programs in each of the four program categories (Faith, Family, Community, and Life) for a total of 16 program credits, with four in each category. The **Father McGivney Award** This award recognizes excellence in your council's membership growth.

Therefore, what remains is two more members to achieve this goal of Star Council.

It would be wonderful for our Grand Knight Darren Molony to be the recipient of a plaque with Council's and his name on it. This does however bring to mind what WE, the Brothers of Council 11961 have accomplished for the past two years under his leadership in the face of many obstacles. Below are reminders of the many events from the past two years, not all events are pictured.







We will be catering the African American Mentor Awards Picnic at Flagler Palm Coast High School. Pictures are of event - 5/30/25

Brothers, it's time to fire up the smokers, roll up our sleeves. This is one of our most joyful events and we need your help to make it a success.

We'll be serving up delicious smoked pork, smoked chicken thighs and our famous KofC smoked sausage, homemade coleslaw, green beans mac & cheese... but before we can feed the crowd, we need a strong team of Knights to help prepare, set up, and serve.

This is a great chance to build fraternity, welcome new members, and show our parish community what Knights can do when we work shoulder to shoulder.

DON'T FORGET YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR MORE THAN ONE POSITION!

JUNE 6th
AFRICAN AMERICAN MENTOR PROGRAM AWARDS
 at the Flagler Palm Coast High School
HOT SMOKIN' KNIGHTS

BROTHER KNIGHTS!
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!
VOLUNTEER WITH "HOT SMOKIN' KNIGHTS"
SIGN UP TO PREP, SET UP, & SERVE FOOD!
 Click The Link Below

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948A5AA2EA6FD0-64151157-aamp#/>

THE KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

BLOOD DRIVE



June's Knight of the Month was awarded to Brother John Picucci PGK. John Picucci was named April's Knight of the Month. John was recognized for his long and faithful service to the council and his hard-working support of all our activities. John was also lauded for being our council photographer, newsletter writer, and a trusted advisor to the Grand Knight.
GK Darren Molony



June 2026

Thur June 4, 2026	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Business Meeting at SMdM Parish Hall
Sat June 6, 2026	All Day	Smoker – AAMF
Sun June 7, 2026	10:00am – 11:00am	K of C Mass St Joseph Monastery
Tues June 16, 2026	4:30pm – 6:30pm	Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
Sun June 21, 2026	All Day	Father's Day
Thur June 25, 2026	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Officers Meeting at the Pavilion

JUNE 2026

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	3	4

July 2026

Thur July 2, 2026	6:00pm-7:00pm	Business Meeting at SMdM Parish center
Sat. July 4, 2026	All Day	Independence Day
Sun July 5, 2026	10:00am – 11:00am	K of C Mass St. Joseph Monastery
	08:00am-1:00pm	Blood Drive – St. Joseph Monastery
Thur. July 2, 2026	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Business Meeting at the Pavilion
Tues July 21, 2026	4:30pm – 6:30pm	Assembly 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
Mon May 25, 2026	All Day	Memorial Day
Thur July 30, 2026	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Officers Meeting at the Pavilion

July 2026

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



June Birthdays

<i>Anthony Flynn</i>	06-11
<i>Anthony Biancardi</i>	06-16
<i>Otto Stellner</i>	06-18
<i>James Kelly</i>	06-19
<i>Joseph Giuliano</i>	06-20
<i>Charles Miller</i>	06-24
<i>Robert Borst</i>	06-27
<i>Paul Stadtmueller</i>	06-29



300 CLUB WINNERS

May \$50 Winners

#32 Helen Veneziano
 #130 Pattie Shaw
 #242 Paula Maiorano
 #83 Kristen Gossman



ST MARY COUNCIL 11961



Golf Tournament

Place - Halifax Plantation

Keep the Date - October 14, 2026

Golf scramble, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Buffet Dinner

Events - Fun Day = hole in one, longest drive, putting contest.

Plus - Raffle, mulligans and silent auction





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.

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

PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR SICK LIST

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 Pistritto
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, Joe Leahy, David Bailey

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 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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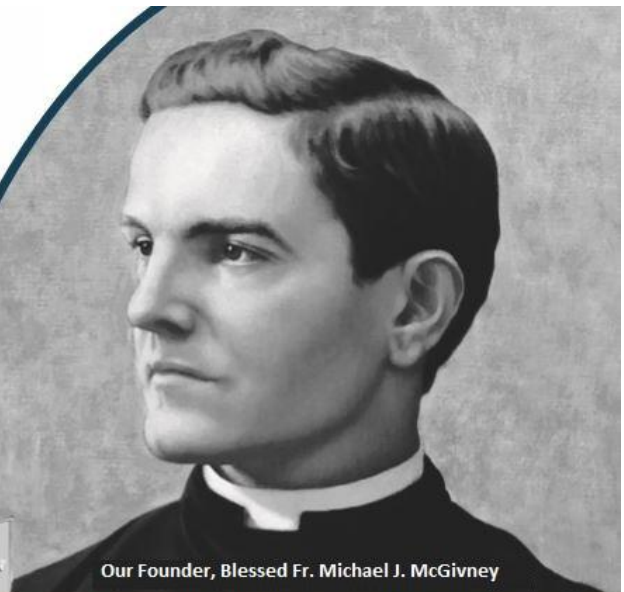
JUNE 2026

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®

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LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE RETIREMENT PLANNING