



The

# Korona

St. Mary's Council 11961  
Website: [www.council11961.org](http://www.council11961.org)

Charity  
Unity  
Fraternity



January 2025

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



**“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.”**

I wish all of you a healthy and blessed 2025 and I pray that you continue to grow in your faith as Catholic gentlemen. May we rise together as good examples of masculine spirituality in our families, our communities, and our churches.

January begins with the **Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God**, the first holy day of obligation/privilege of the new year.

The council will be holding its second live **1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> degree Exemplification Ceremony** on **Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm** in the **Monastery Chapel**. Please plan on attending this moving event as we show the strength and enthusiasm of our council to the new Knights and their families. An exemplification is always a poignant reminder of the vows that we committed ourselves to when we became Knights. The ceremony typically takes less than 40 minutes and refreshments will be served afterwards.

The **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Military Chaplain Dinner Dance** is **January 18<sup>th</sup> at Santa Maria del Mar Church Hall from 6 pm to 9:30 pm**. I strongly encourage everyone to attend! This is a fun event and a worthwhile cause as it supports our military chaplains who do so much for the men and women of our armed forces. We have a number of Knights and their wives already attending from our council so you won't be alone. **See Brother Rich for tickets (\$35.00 each)**. We will be holding a **smoker event** for the Monastery community on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> after the 5 pm Mass**. The theme for the cook is a **Hawaiian Night** celebration. The menu will include a variety of Hawaiian-type food items. Details about the event will be forthcoming from our Smoker Leadership Team very soon, so be on the lookout!

I just want to mention a few of the activities from December to highlight how active our council has been recently. Our first blood drive held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the monastery was successful and we thank Joe Jurec for stepping up to head the event for Community Director, Chris. The Hot Smokin' Knights did a great job cooking delicious sausages and burgers for the Bishop Pohlmeier's visit to the Monastery on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Father Robert celebrated our second Knights of Columbus Sunday Mass at the Monastery on December 15<sup>th</sup> with our council's liturgy team in place. We thank you, Father and liturgy team, and we hope these Masses will continue in the future!

On a personal note, I want to thank all of my brothers for the support and encouragement you have given me in my first six months as Grand Knight. We have had a challenging time since I assumed this role. I had always envisioned leading this council to become a strong, active and spiritually engaged group of Knights and you have made that vision come true. I won't list all that you have accomplished over the past six months, but suffice it to say, that you have engaged in more activities in six months than were accomplished in some years of this council's history. Just go back and read the newsletters and they will prove my point. I am incredibly proud of you, as you should be of yourselves!

God bless you, and let's continue to do our best for the Lord in 2025!

Vivat Jesus!

**DON'T FORGET TO SELL YOUR 300 CLUB TICKETS !!!**

*Grand Knight  
Darren Molony*

## District Deputy Message



Brothers,

Happy New Year! We are blessed to live in the GREATEST country in the world. We are doubly blessed to be CATHOLIC, and the triple blessing is to be Brother Knights.

I have put together a District 17 LIVE exemplification team. It will be devised of the GK from Notre Dame, St Mary's and Mother Seton. I have asked Worthy FDD Kevin Ryan to be the presider and he graciously accepted. All exemplifications will be live from now on. I will speak more about this at our monthly meeting.

As I stated in December our primary focus will be on membership and helping your council to achieve their goals. Your council is adding new members, performing fraternal benefit events and Faith in Action programs. Star Council is the goal. However Double and Triple star are not out of reach. You do NOT need to wait for a membership drive to offer a Catholic gentleman the gift of membership. That Catholic gentleman you see in church every week is a prime candidate for the invitation to join our brotherhood. In unity and fraternity, we can accomplish this.

Every faith in action program is a membership opportunity. Your next fraternal benefits event needs to be open to the entire parish. Even if they are not KofC brothers. I have asked each GK to plan this event and our phenomenal Worthy Field Agent, Larry Kennedy, will show nonmembers the blessing of being a Brother Knight. Brother Larry is one of our best recruitment tools, second only to a non-KofC's wife!! If the wife wants the husband to become a Brother Knight, then we all know that answer.

The Supreme Council commissioned CARA, of Georgetown University, to perform a survey. Of the 10 million Catholic men surveyed they found that 7 million would become a KofC if they were asked!! We have 2.1 million men in our order internationally. Why aren't we asking men to join us?

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

Blessings to all for a healthy and prosperous 2025!

Vivat Jesus!  
Greg Gully

### Field Agent – Larry Kennedy “New Year Resolutions”



Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a joyous and merry Christmas.

All of us start the new year afresh. We make resolutions. Let's plan now to look back at the end of 2024 and be able to say, "I kept those resolutions to improve myself, to improve my relationship with my family and friends, and my relationship with God!" An improved prayer life is the goal of many. I know I've made that resolution almost every year. Some years I do better than others.

But here are few things I've found about making resolutions that helped me.

First, I don't want to make a resolution that is not possible to keep. I've got to be realistic. I can't go to an extreme. For example, to improve my prayer life, I can't go from praying for 15 minutes in the morning to reading a chapter of the Bible, attending daily Mass, reciting the rosary, and saying the Liturgy of the Hours each day. For me, that's too much of a jump. I'm going to follow that for a day or two and then something will get me off track. Myself, I need to take baby steps. Maybe start with saying the rosary each day. I've got to make my resolution achievable.

The same is true of all those other resolutions we make.

I can't go from being a couch potato to running six miles a day...but I could start by walking a mile each day as an achievable step in that direction.

I can't starve myself trying to lose weight...but I could cut out snacks between meals as a start. Again, an achievable step.

I might want to read more, so I can start by reading a chapter a day in a book.

You get the idea. The resolution has to be reasonable, achievable, and specific.

Now here is one resolution that is reasonable, achievable, and specific: Resolve to meet with me to update the information on your family's financial needs analysis. (Or maybe you need to complete a financial needs analysis.) Let's see where you stand. Your financial health is critical to your family's future security. As your field agent I'm charged to meet with each of my members each year. We can take a look at your goals and aspirations and make sure you're on track to keep your family appropriately protected.

I'll contact you soon to see if an appointment should be our next step.

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

Larry Kennedy

For more information contact:  
Larry Kennedy, FICF, MDRT  
407-579-9888  
[lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org](mailto:lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org)





### January 2025 Calendar

Wed Jan 1, 2025 All Day  
 Thurs Jan 2, 2025 5:30pm – 6:00pm  
 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
 Fri Jan 10, 2025 5:00pm – 6:00pm  
 Sat Jan 18, 2025 6:00pm – 9:30pm  
 Mon Jan 20, 2025 All Day  
 Tues Jan 22, 2025 4:30pm – 6:30pm  
 Sun Jan 26, 2025 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day)  
 Officer's Meeting (Monastery)  
 Business Meeting (Monastery)  
 Exemplification (Monastery Chapel)  
 Military Dinner Dance (SMdM Parish Hall)  
 Martin Luther Day  
 Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)  
 Hawaiian Chicken Smoker

### January 2025

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	1

### February 2025 Calendar

Thurs Feb 6, 2025 5:30pm – 6:00pm  
 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
 Sat Feb 8, 2025 8:00am – 12:00pm  
 Mon Feb 17, 2025 All Day  
 Tues Feb 18, 2025 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Officer's Meeting (Monastery)  
 Business Meeting (Monastery)  
 Free Throw (SEAS)  
 Presidents Day  
 Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM)

### February 2025

26	27	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	1

## Council 11961 Officers (2024-2025)



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



Inside Guard Joe Beck    Outside Guard Paul Przbysz    1 Year Trustee Rich Friese    2 Year Trustee Ron Kiceina    3 Year Trustee Joe Jurec    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 John Thomas    Faith Director Darren Molony    Community Director Chris Grecek  
 johnpicucci@yahoo.com    Gossmanmike@gmail.com    jjthomas.10@icloud.com    dmolony@protonmail.com    cgrecek40@gmail.com







# Knights of Columbus Council 11961 '300 Club'



Knights of Columbus St. Mary Korona are selling '300 Club' raffle tickets for the 2025 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 23-24, 2024.

Starting in January and throughout 2025, St. Mary's 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 KofC shirts)!  
Tickets are also available at the Monastery Office (M-F).  
Contact 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!*

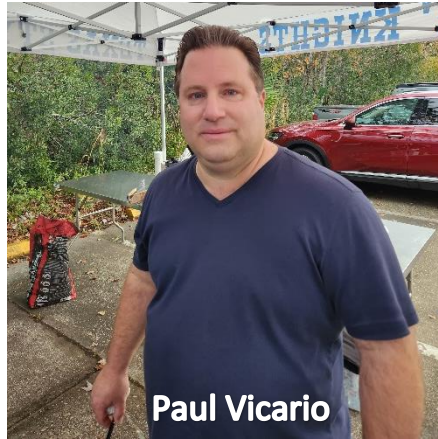
For more detailed information, visit <https://council11961.org/index.php/300-club/>



*While the faithful of St Joseph Carmelite Monastery have been very generous, we need to get the last 45 chances sold. We did attempt a sign at the Monastery entrance which netter a few but our hero thus far is Advocate Phil Lajeunesse who sold 36. Talk to neighbors, friends, or doctors. Let's get the last few sold.*



# Recognition and Awards



Paul Vicario attends Mass at St. Joseph Monastery where he learned of our Council and joined us. Paul was born and raised in Staten Island and moved to Florida one year ago. He is the father of two young men. Paul is semi-retired and loves to cook...another member of the Hot Smokin Knights.

## Knight of the Month

This Months, "Knight of The Month" award goes to Rich Friese.

Brother Rich has worked tirelessly on improving the appearance of St Mary Archdiocese Cemetery. This month especially, with organizing "Wreaths Across America" along with the usual "Hot Smokin Knights" duties.

## Welcome to Co. 11961

Say Hi to Tom Flemming. Tom has been a Florida resident for the past 4 years having been born and raised in South Jersey. He attended Glassboro state college and was the Superintendent of Schools in Sewell, NJ. Tom's interests are varied, with antiques cars, golf, pickle ball and building. That is, when his two sons aren't occupying his time. Welcome Tom.



# BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH



## While Strengthening Our Parish

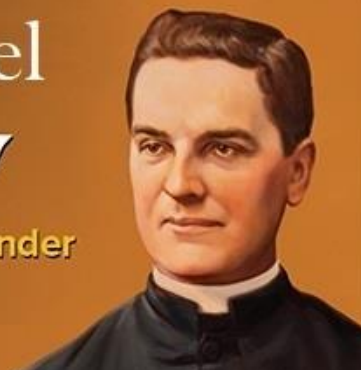


# Blessed Michael McGivney



## Knights of Columbus Founder

### Pray for Us!





## St. Joseph's Monastery Welcomes Bishop Polhmeier



### *Bishop Erik T. Pohlmeier*

honored St. Josephs Carmelite Monastery, the home of Council 11961 with a visit on December 14, 2024. Our goal was to welcome his Excellency and thank him for permitting Father Robert to be our council's Chaplain. His Excellency said Mass assisted by Father Manny, Father Robert and Father Gregory. Also in assistance was Deacon John Harvey.

**The Color Corps, led by Captain Frank Cosentino was also in attendance.**



After Mass, a meal was provided by the Monastery faithful. The Hot Smokin Knights served up sausages and burgers.

Our team of Brothers Rich Friese, Fred Harting, and Ken Fehner did the cook, aided by John Picucci, John Thomas and Joe Marotti.

His Excellency was particularly interested in this "Smoker" and enjoyed the sausage with Father Robert.







ST JOSEPH MONASTERY

**MEN'S PRAYER  
WARRIORS GROUP**

**MEETS EVERY THIRD  
TUESDAY AT  
6PM**



**Jesus Needs You, Don't Say No!  
Vocations are *Everybody's* Business. Pray for Vocations!**



**January Birthdays**



**Richard Friese 1-16**

**Philip Lageunesse 1-23**



**300 CLUB WINNERS  
December \$50 Winners**

268 Michael Boullion 158 Robert Souza  
88 Fred Thomas 84 Brian Selover

**\$100 Winner**

30 Sharon Friese

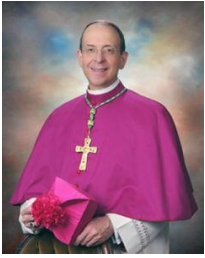
**\$500 Annual Winner**

197 Pat Jones



## Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (January)

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



**"[A]nd on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage." (Gospel for Jan. 5, Mt 2:11a)**

The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord recalls the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. The Magi recognize the newborn king and offer him homage. This great feast occurs during the liturgical season of

Christmas, which begins on Christmas Eve and continues through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During Christmas time, we all remember and celebrate the reality that God assumed our human nature and became a little child. May this

season also remind us to recognize the dignity of all children — including unborn children — today.

This month, I challenge you to work toward greater recognition of the sanctity of unborn human life by participating in a peaceful pro-life demonstration or supporting a pregnancy resource center.

### Questions for Reflection:

- Do you look upon the lives of children — and all people — with respect, recognizing the dignity of human life?
- What more can you personally do to protect and support life wherever it is threatened or in need?
- Are there ways you can witness to others — in word or deed — to foster awareness of the sanctity of life?

**Chaplain's Archdiocese Dinner Dance**  
**Saturday, January 18, 2025**  
**Dinner - Dancing 6:00 - 9:30 PM**  
**Santa Maria del Mar Parish Hall**  
**Flagler Beach, FL**  
**Music Featuring**  
**Tim Rippey, CBS Recording Artist**  
**Chicken or Salmon Dinner**  
*Proudly Supported by*  
**Bob Calabrese**  
**386-547-9312**  
 **Corpus Christi Assembly 2810**  
**Knights of Columbus**  
**Greg Wilson**  
**651-470-5781**  
**\$35**  
per person  
50/50 Drawing  
50/50 AUCTION

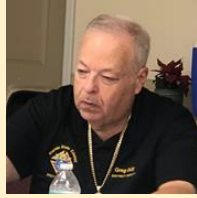


## Grand Knight Molony Attends District #17 Mid-Year Meeting

District Deputy Greg Gully (**center photo**) invited the District #17 Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, Program Directors, and Membership Directors to a Mid-Year Meeting. The meeting was held at the Santa Maria del Mar Parish Hall on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Also in attendance was Florida State Membership Director Dan McIntyre.

DD Gully began the meeting with an update on each council's progress towards Star Council. State Membership Director, Dan McIntyre, outlined the resources and procedures for inviting men to join the Order. Added

emphasis was made on the e-membership program which has greatly streamlined the onboarding of new members.



Each council provided updates on programs developed in their respective council for Faith in Action activities. The meeting attendees also had an open discussion on best practices concerning membership, evangelization, and use of social media. The 'how-to' on submission of articles for the Florida State Council Invocation newsletter was discussed.

(Photos below L-R: 11961 GK Darren Molony, 17480 GK Ralph Esposito & DGK Joseph Paul, FL. State Membership Director Dan McIntyre, 10514 GK Jerry Chabon & DGK Bryant Perszyk)



# January is Respect Life Month



## Florida District #17 Councils Distribute 'Coats for Kids'

District Deputy Greg Gully invited all of District #17 councils to participate in the Supreme Council 'Coats for Kids' Program. The 'Coats for Kids' is a featured community program under the Knight's Faith in Action Model Program. DD Gully announced that the Supreme Council was offering a 'Buy One Get One' (BOGO) promotion in October. The promotion stated that for each case of 24 coats that a council ordered, they would get an additional case of 24 coats at no additional charge. All councils in the district participated, including Notre Dame Council 10514 (Flagler Beach), St. Mary's Council 11961 (Korona), and Mother Seton Council 17480 (Palm Coast). District #17 Warden, Owen Thompson, assisted DD Gully in administering the BOGO program for the district.

Grand Knight Ralph Esposito of Mother Seton Council 17480 and Grand Knight Darren Moloney of St. Mary's Council 11961 teamed up to distribute coats at the St. Elizabeth Parish Hall in Palm Coast. Brothers Mike VanHeusen and Dennis Boucher coordinated the coat distribution. A special \$500 donation was made by Cable Works USA to help fund the local coat program in Palm Coast. The focus of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton coat

distribution were the individuals that come to the parish's outreach mission (see photo below).



Notre Dame Council 10514 worked with the Flagler County Education Foundation to distribute coats purchased by Notre Dame Council 10514 through their S.T.U.F.F. Bus Initiative. The S.T.U.F.F. Bus, which stands for Supplying Things U Find Fundamental, provides essential supplies and clothing to students and their families experiencing economic difficulties. Supplies include, but are not limited to: new and gently used clothing, jackets, hygiene products, shoes, undergarments, and school supplies. (see photo, bottom of page)

A total of 192 coats were distributed from the councils in District #17 to benefit kids in need.

Since 'Coats for Kids' launched in 2009, Knights have distributed coats in all 50 U.S. states and all 10 Canadian provinces — including on U.S. military bases and Native American and First Nation reservations in the U.S. and Canada. Internationally, Knights of Columbus councils currently distribute approximately 200,000 coats to children in need each year. Coats for Kids exemplifies the Knights of Columbus' mission of charity and providing for the most vulnerable members of society.





## In distress please notify one of the council officers.

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

Joe Jurec wife Karen , Nacci Family, Eric Bonilla, Mel Young  
Joan Beck, Bob Stearns and son, Payton Phillips wife Jane  
Joe Rios Family, John Ruck, Dr. Joe Moore, Joe Pimentel, Rich Friese, 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, George Baldyga, Michael Benedetto, Francis A. Bock, John A. Carey, Jerry Fondow, Hank Kesselring, Thomas Lee, Andrew Petersen, John Placenti, Richard Rentz, Gus Simms and also our former District Deputy Paul Gloekler. 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*



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 Gregg Wilson 651-470-5781**



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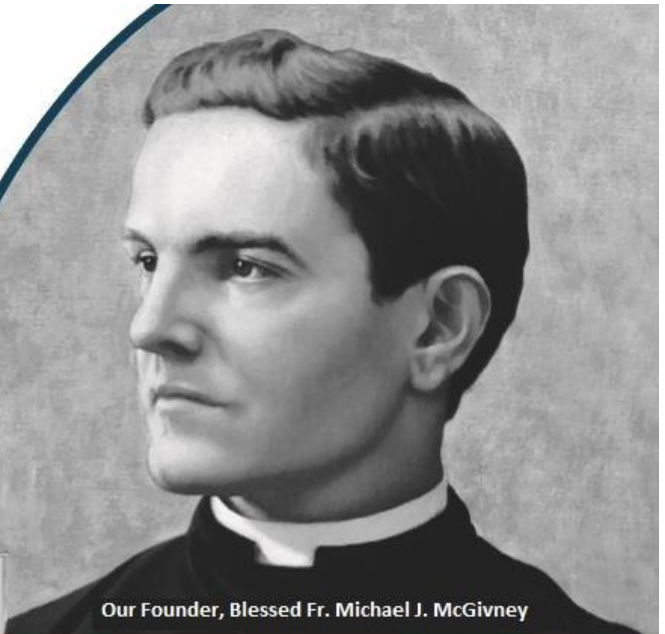
St. Mary's Council 11961  
Website: [www.council11961.org](http://www.council11961.org)

January 2025

Charity  
Unity  
Fraternity

## Different for a reason

Discover the Catholic difference  
of doing business with the  
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Our Founder, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney



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LIFE INSURANCE    DISABILITY INSURANCE    LONG-TERM CARE    RETIREMENT PLANNING