



The

Korona

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

Charity
Unity
Fraternity



January 2026

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 2026 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. Since the first Thursday of the month is January 1st, our **council meeting** will be on **January 8th** in the monastery pavilion at **6pm**.

Our next **Knights of Columbus Mass** will be on **Sunday, January 4th at 10 am**. in Our Lady of Mount Carmel chapel. Please join us, along with your wife and family members, for this special Mass.

We will have a **blood drive** the same **Sunday, January 4th from 8 am to 1 pm**. Please sign up at One Blood for an appointment to donate!

I just want to mention a few of the activities from December to highlight how active our council has been recently.

Many thanks to Brother Chris and his wife, Marianne, for hosting our *Christmas Party* on Sunday, December 14th. A wonderful time was had by all and the food was simply outstanding! Even the Buffalo Bills won for the occasion.

We also were able to present a check for \$750. to *Whispering Meadow Ranch* on Wednesday, December 17th because of your efforts during the Tootsie Roll Drive and from your own personal donations. Also, on the same day, we awarded the young participants of our *Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest* with certificates and with gift cards for the winners.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of my brothers for the support and encouragement you have given me as Grand Knight. You have made a challenging time of moving our council home into a blessing by your positive attitudes and helping hands. I know that Fathers Robert and Gregory and, especially, Brother Patrick are very happy that we are here. Little by little, we are becoming an integral part of the Monastery community and I thank you for that! 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 2026!

Vivat Jesus!
Darren

District Deputy Message



Brothers,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we pause to give thanks—to God who has guided us faithfully through the month's past, and who now calls us forward into new opportunities for service, fraternity, and prayer. This is a moment not only to look back on what

we've done, but to look ahead to what, by God's grace, we are yet to become.

May this coming year renew the spirit of unity among our Brother Knights, strengthen our commitment to charity, and deepen our devotion to the principles that define us—charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. May our councils be beacons of hope in our parishes and communities, reaching out with compassion to the poor, the lonely, and the forgotten.

Let us ask God to bless our families, our Church, and our Order with peace, courage, and wisdom. May the Holy Spirit guide our hands and hearts in every act of service. And as we begin this new year, may we remember that each day is a gift—a fresh opportunity to bring Christ's light into the world through our actions, faith, and brotherhood. Speaking of gifts....please give the gift of brotherhood to a Catholic gentleman. A parishioner, neighbor, family member, or someone you do business with.

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

Vivat Jesus!
Greg

Field Agent – Larry Kennedy “Dividends”



Happy New Year!

Beginning January 1, 2025, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies. The dividend increase was in addition to the

increased fraternal benefits announced the previous year. Inspired by our founder Blessed Michael McGivney, we continue to seek opportunities to help provide our members with financial security.

What are insurance dividends?

Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors*.

These dividends can be used in various ways, including to:

- + Purchase paid up additions, which is the default option.
- + Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- + Receive the dividends in cash.
- + Reduce billed premium.¹
- + Reduce an existing loan.

Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$22 billion in dividends and insurance benefits.

I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how dividends may help you achieve your financial security goals. If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please feel free to chat with me, and we can schedule a time to meet.

Thank you!

Vivat Jesus!
Larry Kennedy

** Dividends are not guaranteed.*

¹ This option is not available on all policies, and not available if policy is paying premiums via a monthly EFT.

** 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)

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

Jan 2026 Calendar

Sun Jan 4, 2026 8:00am – 01:00pm
 Sun Jan 4, 2026 10:00am – 11:00am
 Mon, Jan 5, 2026 6:00pm- 7:00pm
 Thur Jan 8, 2026 6:00pm – 7:00pm
 Tues, Jan 20, 2026 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Blood Drive St Joseph Monastery
 Mass – St Joseph Monastery
 Officers Meeting at the Monastery
 Business Meeting at the Monastery
 Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM, Parish Hall)

January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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

Feb 2026 Calendar


Sun Feb 1, 2026 10:00am – 11:00am
 Mon Feb 2, 2026 6:00pm – 7:00pm
 Thur Feb 5, 2026 6:00pm – 7:00pm
 Tues Feb 17,,2026 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Mass St, Jeseoph Monastery
 Officers Meeting at the Monastery
 Business Meeting at the Monastery
 Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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

*On November Our **Keep Christ in Christmas** poster contest participants on Celebration Night, December 2025, at the Monastery pavilion. Grand Knight, Darren Molony, and Brother Ken Fehner presented certificates to all and gift cards to the winners. Father Gregory joined in the celebration as well. Great job, boys and girls!*





Knights of Columbus®

Florida State Council Raffle

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

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

COATS FOR KIDS



This year's Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids drive was held on Nov 28th at St Elizabeth Ann Seton's Food Pantry. Our council purchased four cases of coats for this drive, Our Council was represented by GK Darren Molony, Chris Grecek, Mike Gossman, Nestor Ramos, John Picucci



BLOOD DRIVE – JANUARY 4 2026

Just a reminder Brothers, to start the new year off right. We have been pretty consistent in making our quota of 10 donations.

Donating blood saves more lives than you'd think. According to Red Cross, there's always at least one person in the United States who needs a blood donation every two seconds. This means hospitals need over 44,000 blood donations per day. Newer studies also show that it's healthy to donate blood – both for the donor and receiver.

DONATE BLOOD

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Sunday, January 4 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

All donors will receive*:
 - \$25 eGift Card
 - Long-sleeved T-shirt
 - Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.

Donors Receive
 \$25 eGift CARD
 PLUS
 Long-sleeved T-shirt
 PLUS
 Wellness Checkup

Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 75752

ID REQUIRED

oneblood

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



TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

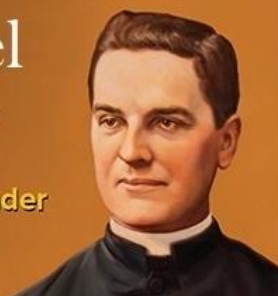


On the weekend November 22-23 our council held a Tootsie Roll Drive in front of Harris Grocery. Brothers took two hour shifts offering tootsies to shoppers, Ken Fehner and John Picucci, Fred Harting and Nigel Powell, Darren Molony and Joe Marotti (2 times) Mike Gossman and Estaban Gomez, Chris Grecek and Paul Vicario were the teams.

We were all amazed at the generosity of the Harris, shoppers. With an additional contribution from the council, we presented a check for \$750.00 to Kristen Aguirre, daughter of founders Richard and Helene Davis. To show our thanks, John Picucci presented a letter of appreciation to Rusty Henderson, of Harris Grocery and the shoppers for their generosity.



Blessed Michael McGivney
 Knights of Columbus Founder
 Pray for Us!





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/>

THANK YOU BROTHER CHRIS AND MARIANNE GRECEK



On Sunday, December 14 Chris and Marianne Grecek hosted the first Knights of Columbus Potluck Christmas Party

The menu was beyond belief with pulled pork, ham, meat balls, baked ziti, mac and cheese, various salads and deserts plus plenty of "liquid refreshment." 25-30 Brothers and spouses attended.



January Birthdays



Phillip A. Lajeunesse 01-23



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



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



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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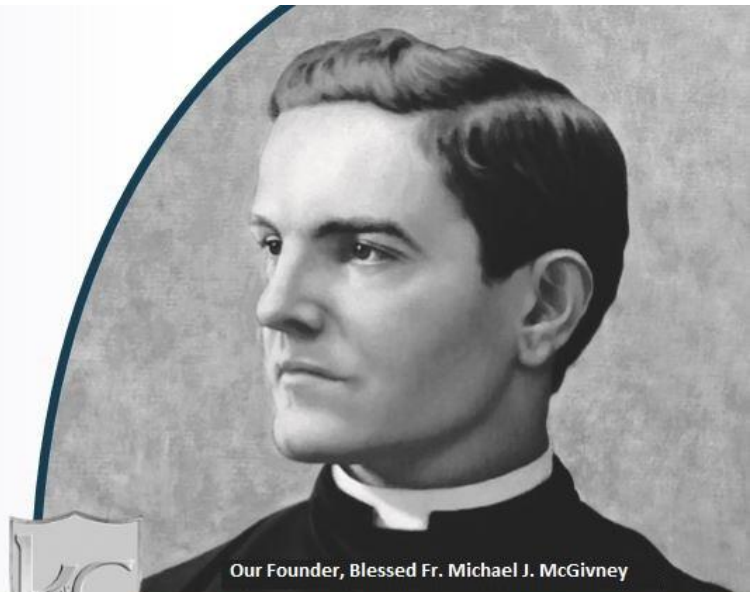
January 2026

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