

Officers and Directors

**Grand Knight**

Gordon Shellhaas

**Deputy Grand Knight**

Mike Mahan

**Chancellor**

Mark O'Brien

**Treasurer**

Al Valenti

**Financial Sec**

Paul Gulbrandsen

**Warden**

Phil Ashford

**Inside Guard**

Joe Finamore

**Outside Guard**

Vincent Spanicciati

**Recorder**

Wayne Irvine

**Advocate**

Carmine Maida

**Trustee -1 yr.**

John Joly

**Trustee -2 yr.**

Jerry Graceffo

**Trustee-3 yr.**

Dave Lawson

December 2025

Volume 25 Issue 12

## Honoring Knights

**Knight of the Month  
For December  
Patrick George**



**Family of the Month  
for December  
Tom Ricketts**



## **Knightly Round Up!**



**July 2025**

**FOM David Reich**  
**KOM Sam Russell**

**August 2025**

**KOM - Father Sebastián**  
**FOM - Janice / Mike Novello**

**September 2025**

**KOM - Dennis Kalich**  
**FOM - Ernie / Terri Soller**

**October 2025**

**FOM Bill / Connie Rempe**  
**KOM Mike Marciuliano.**

**December 2025**

**FOM Tom Ricketts**  
**KOM Patrick George**

**January 2025**

**FOM Tom / Lori Ludwig**  
**FOM Joe Mascari**

**February 2025**

**KOM Mike / Maureen Kelley**  
**KOM Jim Thompson**

**March 2025**

**FOM Kent / Patty Goodger**  
**KOM Joe Timmons**

**April 2025**

**FOM Rich / Debbie Kent**  
**KOM Joe Finamore**

**May 2025**

**FOM Mike / Nadine Kulikowski**  
**KOM Rich McBride**

**June 2025**

**FOM Tod Taylor**  
**KOM Dave Lawson**

## **Breakfast with Saint Nick!**

The annual Breakfast with St. Nick was held at the OLA Parish Center on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The event took place in the morning and served the community. Guests enjoyed breakfast made by the fellow Knights. We served blueberry pancakes and sausage. The hall was decorated incredibly by Brother Knight, Matt Cangemi and his wife. The kitchen was led by Rick Kuebel.



We had over 170 people with over 110 kids in attendance. We had multiple areas, all of which were led by captains. We had a full arts and crafts area which was a huge hit across the board. We had over 25 knights and multiple non-Knight members (family members and wives) volunteering both during the event itself and the planning prior to it happening. We had over 175 hours from volunteers. We had a great DJ providing music. They were truly great.

**Many thanks to all who assisted in making this event so successful. Without the dedicated support of each Fellow Knight, their wives, family members, this event would not have been possible. It is amazing what a group of people who are all dedicated to the same cause are able to pull off.**



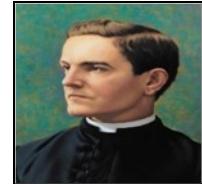


## Food for Families!

**Council 13341 was pleased to donate \$2750 to both St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Bradenton and St. Michael's Food Pantry in Wauchula. In addition to the donation, both pantries are supported weekly by Council 13341 Brother Knights.**



Matt Cangemi, Gordon Shellhaas, Mother Nikopoia, Mike Mahan  
(St. Michael's Wauchula)



John Dodd, Rick Gintner, Matt Cangemi, Chris Kress, Jill Ireland  
(St. Joseph's Food Pantry- Bradenton)





## Habitat!

On Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9 Knights of Council #13341 teamed together with Habitat for Humanity at the Habitat Depot located at 1005 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W., Palmetto, and completed the following tasks:

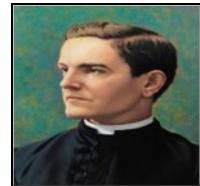
Bent rebar to be used in the concrete slab foundations of two (2) new homes awaiting the beginning of construction.

Cut dozens of PVC pipe sections to also be used in the foundation pouring process.

Stripped a metal frame construction trailer of all wood planking, wiring, and hardware in preparation for restoration.



## Re Re Bar!!





## Habitat!

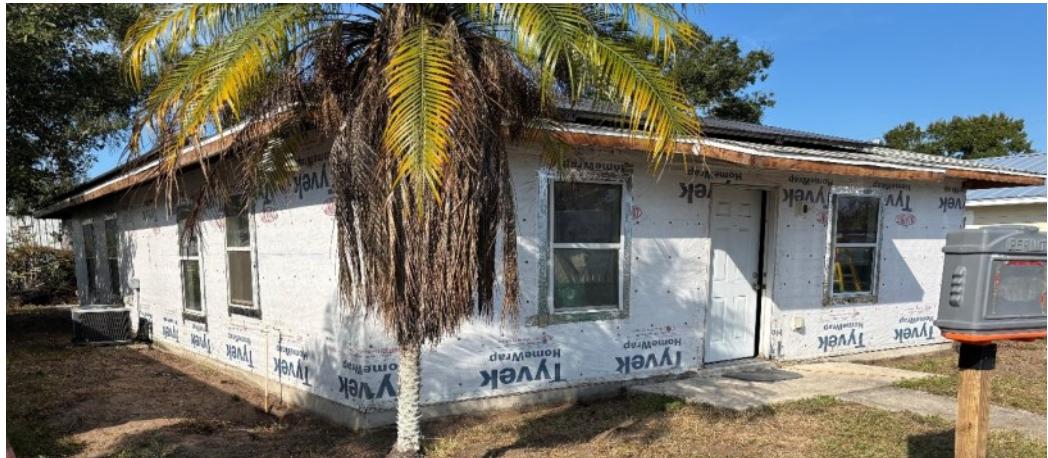
On Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6 Knights of Council #13341 teamed together with Habitat for Humanity at a rehab build located at 1123 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Dr. W., Palmetto, FL 34221. The project team completed the following:

Completely removed eight (8) trees (roots included) from around the perimeter of the house.

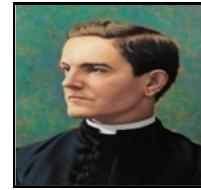
Removed 8'-12" of soil from around and graded the perimeter of the entire house.



1. Carl Perkins
2. Paul Roy
3. Austin Schlessinger
4. Joe Dixon
5. Michael Mahan
6. Rich McBride



## Treemendous!!





## Knights of Columbus Charities

Brother Knights,

Thank you for your continued support of our Council as we serve our Parish and Community.

Many of you have shared that with family responsibilities and work obligations, it can be difficult to attend meetings or volunteer at events as often as you would like. Please know there is still a meaningful way you can help us achieve our goals and continue supporting the charities we serve.

Each year, you will receive three donation requests:

- \* Special Olympics in October
- \* Vocations in December
- \* Helping Life (return address labels) in January

By giving \$25.00 (or whatever you can) to each appeal, together we can reach our charitable goals at Florida K of Charities (5013c Organization) and continue the work entrusted to us.

Our founder, Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney, envisioned the Knights of Columbus as a force to support not only Knights and their families, but also families throughout our Parish communities.

If you would like to do even more, I invite you to join our Monthly Donation Team, all donations are through Florida KofC Charities, Inc. (5013c Organization)

With a gift of just \$10.00 per month, you will be supporting all our charitable programs, including:

- \* Special Olympics
- \* Vocations
- \* Helping Life
- \* Ultrasound Program
- \* Food for Families
- \* Mobile Disabilities
- \* Disaster Relief



Yes, just \$10.00 a month will make a difference, helping us continue our mission while honoring the dream of our Founder, Blessed Fr. McGivney.

Donate online click the link below:

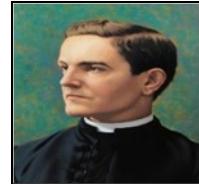
<https://donate.floridakofccharities.org/give>

Thank you for your generosity and dedication to our mission.

## ***Beds for Kids!***

### **BEDS FOR KIDS**

**Serving Manatee and Sarasota Counties, is dedicated to providing free beds\* to Kids that need them. Organizations and government agencies contact us when they learn of a child in need. We started as a small mission of the First United Methodist Church of Bradenton in 2017. As requests in 2021 for children's beds increased, the organization incorporated and received its 501(c)3 nonprofit status.**



#### **Our Mission**

**Beds for Kids Inc, serving Manatee and Sarasota Counties, is a faith-based nonprofit corporation established in Bradenton, Florida, whose mission is to provide free beds for kids that need them. As a faith-based organization, we acknowledge and call upon God for help, guidance, and purpose in fulfilling our mission.**

**One of our new community initiatives is Beds For Kids.**

**This is an interfaith initiative to build and provide free beds to kids in Bradenton and Sarasota that need them. This is an incorporated and 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. The team made and delivered over 800 beds to kids in need during 2024 and 2025.**

**There is more information on their website. <https://b4kids.org/>**

**We have been asked to provide 10-15 knights to help prep wood for an upcoming build. We will use power tools to cut and possibly drill, plane, and sand the wood. The work is done in an open barn that is safe, clean and well lighted.**



**Date: Saturday, 1/17 from 9:00-11:30**

**Location: 6310 209th St E. Bradenton, FL 34211.**

**(On the way to the Annex)**

**Signup here:**

**<https://www.knights13341.org/events/beds-for-kids-1>**

**Wayne Diller  
Community Director**



## Brothers to Brothers

All the good works we do as Knights of Columbus are informed by our four core principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Our Brothers to Brothers Program fulfills directly our principles of Unity and Fraternity.

**Unity** – None of us is as good as all of us. Together, we can accomplish far more than any of us can individually. So, we sticking together...we support and encourage our brother Knights to make life better in our parish and community.

**Fraternity** – Blessed Michael J. McGivney founded our order to bring men together specifically to help them protect their families in times of distress, sickness and death.

### The Program

**Brothers to Brothers** provides direct outreach to members of our Council experiencing health challenges of varying degrees. We accomplish this at two levels: **Council Awareness** and **Assigned Brothers**.

**Council Awareness** – This is the responsibility of all Knights of the Council. When any member becomes aware of the illness, disability or death of a brother Knight it should be formally reported to the Council. This provides the Council with the opportunity to contact the member or his family to determine how the Council can assist them, and to coordinate with the Parish the involvement of the Council in any funeral service.

**Assigned Brothers** – As we speak with a Knight or their family about their health challenges, we offer to assign them a current active member. This Assigned Brother is asked to provide all that is necessary to allow their Brother Knight to be as engaged in Council and Parish life as they desire. Most importantly, they ensure they have regular access to receiving the Holy Eucharist, and to assists in arranging that access as necessary. Additionally, the assigned Knight attempt to identify any other practical needs of the family where the Council may be able to assist, such as minor home repairs.

## Cosmas and Damian Council Brothers to Brothers Program

We ask those participating as Assigned Brothers to commit to the following with respect to their fellow brother Knight:



- Make contact by phone or visit at least once a month.
- Determine if they can attend Mass regularly. If not, offer to co-ordinate with the Parish, visitation by a Eucharistic Minister.
- Confirm they are receiving Council / Assembly emails.
- Invite them to monthly Council meetings and offer to give them a ride to the meeting.
- Invite them to the quarterly Brothers to Brothers luncheon and offer to give them a ride to the luncheon.
- Report to Brothers to Brothers Committee members any practical needs with which the Council may be able to assist.
- Report to the Grand Knight and the Brothers to Brothers Committee members any significant increase in health problems so prayers may be offered.





## Upcoming Events

- January 5rd Officers and Directors
- January 15th Business Meeting 6 pm Annex
- January 17th Beds for Kids 9am
- January 20th to 26th ICON at OLA
- January 22nd Habitat
- January 24th and 25th Wheel Chair Drive



## State Council & District

Always remember this: God loves you, and so do I. You are the reason for Christmas. Your families are the reason for Christmas. Your neighbors and those you serve are the reason for Christmas.

This sacred season calls us to love more deeply, to forgive more freely, and to seek peace within our hearts. It is a time to let go of past hurts, to reconcile where we can, and to renew our commitment to live as true witnesses of Christ's love in the world.

On Christmas morning, God gave us His greatest gift—His only Son—so that we might be saved, redeemed, and reminded of our infinite worth. Christ came into the world to bring light into our darkness and hope into our lives.

May the joy of His birth fill your hearts, may His peace rest upon your homes, and may His love guide you and your families throughout the coming year.

Michael Gizewski State Deputy Florida State Council

## Supreme Council

We are grateful to stand with you as each of us bears the light of hope in our homes, parishes and wider communities.

May the Lord be close to you and your loved ones this holy season and fill you with His grace. We look forward to continuing our mission with you in the new year.

Life Fest is open to attendees of all ages. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Sisters of Life, the event is at Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Jan. 23, 2026. [Home | Life Fest](#)



**Knights of Columbus**  
**FOURTH**  
**D E G R E E**  
*Patriotic degree of the Order.*



## SAN DAMIANO ASSEMBLY #3192

Invites all 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Members to become Members in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree.

NEW Version of the Exemplification: January 31st, 2026,  
 St Mark the Evangelist Church 9724 Cross Creek Blvd. Tampa Florida  
 Registration Starts at 9:00 AM: Exemplification begins at 11:00.

- Your Assigned Assembly #3192. The Worthy Assembly Faithfull Navigator is **David Lawson**. Having made the decision to join the fourth degree, please complete a Manual Copy Application (Form 4) and return all **four copies**. Online Applications are not Acceptable for this degree
- Applications are available from Faithful Comptroller Vinnie Cipriano [vinnie1248@outlook.com](mailto:vinnie1248@outlook.com)

The Cost for the Exemplification is **\$90.00**. This will cover your exemplification fee, Patriotic Certificate, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Pin and Banquet Dinner Ticket, Social Baldric, and the Assembly has waived the dues for 2026 for all new Candidates.

- Make checks payable to: **Knights of Columbus Assembly #3192 for New Sir Knights**
- Just Candidate \$90.00
- If your wife or Guest would like to attend the Dinner, their ticket is \$50.00
- **Total for Candidate and Guest is \$140.00.**  
 If any Sir Knight would like to attend the Degree to support the new Sir Knights, they are welcome. The dress code is the New 4<sup>th</sup> Degree uniform, Tuxedo or Dark Suite with Baldric. If you would like to attend the dinner also, it will be \$50.00 payable to the Assembly.

Appropriate Dress for candidates is a Dark Suit, NO SHORTS OR JEANS ALLOWED

Reminder, the Form 4 must be signed by the Council Financial Secretary acknowledging the Candidate is a member in good standing with the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree council:

- **Information Meeting for Candidates and Guest on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 7 P.M.** This Session at the Parish Activity Center will allow you to meet your fellow candidates, the Assembly Officers and learn about the Mission of the Patriotic Degree and the Veterans Service Programs provided by San Damiano Assembly #3192

### Tentative Agenda of Exemplification of Patriotism:(May be subject to change!)

- 9:00 to 10:30 Candidate, Sir Knights sign-in
- 11:00 Exemplification
- 1:00 Social Cash Bar
- 2:00 Candidates and Guest Luncheon Banquet
- 4:00 Mass at St marks

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS January 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## Lecture



**Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered an overhaul of the military's Chaplain Corps, saying he intends to "make the Chaplain Corps great again," by restoring its focus on religious ministry.**

**"In an atmosphere of political correctness and secular humanism, chaplains have been minimized, viewed by many as therapists instead of ministers,"**

**Hegseth railed against what he described as "new age notions" in the Army Spiritual Fitness Guide, saying, "it mentions God one time — that's it. It mentions feelings eleven times. It even mentions playfulness — whatever that is — nine times." He said the guide "alienates" religious soldiers "by pushing secular humanism." As a result, Hegseth said the Army will be "tossing it," and said that he had a directive that would be signed that day to scrap the guide at once.**

**The Army's guide was released in August 2025, and frames spiritual fitness as an important part of force readiness. III Corps pioneered a monthslong study to develop the 112-page document, according to previous reporting by Military Times.**

**"We are aggressively moving forward with Secretary Hegseth's intent to discontinue the Army Spiritual Fitness Guide," Army spokesperson Tony McCormick said on Wednesday.**

**Hegseth said other new changes include "simplifying the faith and belief coding system," which he said has "ballooned to over two hundred overly complex faith and belief codes."**

**More revisions are forthcoming, he emphasized.**

**"There will be a top-down cultural shift, putting spiritual wellbeing on the same footing as mental and physical health, as a first step toward creating a supportive environment for our warriors and their souls," he said.**





# TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

“That Man Is You!” (TMIY) is a transformative men’s program offered free of charge at over 1,000 Catholic parishes across the U.S. (including Our Lady of the Angels since 2023) that addresses the challenges Catholic men of all ages face today, especially in their roles as husbands and fathers. From mid-September to mid-December and again from mid-January to mid-April, participants meet weekly for 90 minutes to pray, watch videos—featuring speakers covering Church teachings, Scripture, wisdom of the saints, latest social science, and testimonials—and have small group discussions. This program is open to all men (parishioners and non-parishioners), and this fall, two weekly TMIY sessions will be offered. If you have never registered for TMIY at Our Lady of the Angels and would like to attend this fall, scan the QR code to the right with your device to sign up.

For more information, visit <https://www.olangelscc.org/tmiy> or contact Mike Gonzales at 913-424-8255 or [gonzalesmichaelpaul@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalesmichaelpaul@gmail.com)



**Council 13341**

Our Lady of the Angels  
12905 70 East  
Lakewood Ranch  
Florida 34202

Phone (941)-752-6770  
Fax (941)-752-6821  
Email:  
[parishinfo@olangelssc.org](mailto:parishinfo@olangelssc.org)



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**Lecturer**  
Robert Reilly

**Chaplain**  
Fr. Sebastian Szczawinski.

**Program Director**  
Mike Mahan

**Membership**  
Dave Cravens

**Public Relations**  
John Joly

**Community**  
Wayne Diller

**Family**  
Tod Taylor

**Faith**  
Phil Gonnella

**Life**  
Frank Dressman

**Editor**  
Jim Thompson

**Grand Knight's Korner**

We finished up a wonderful year with a flurry of activity. In the last 2 weeks, we put up the OLA Christmas trees, held a recruiting drive and open house, Coats for Kids, sold food at the Ladies Guild craft show, celebrated the Feast Day our Lady of Guadalupe at Mass and held a rosary after.

There is more: Our Breakfast with St. Nick parish event was a hit and it all ended with our Council Christmas party. I was a bit concerned that we could pull all this off but I was proven wrong.

Thank you Brothers for herculean effort. Once again you have proven that this council is truly the gold standard of all councils.