



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**JANUARY 2026
NEWS & NOTES**

COUNCIL #5644 1330 SUNSHINE AVE. LEESBURG, FLORIDA 34748

GRAND KNIGHT	DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT	FINANCIAL SECRETARY	INSURANCE AGENT
Bill Collins (914) 329-7010	Open (xxx) xxx-xxxx	Tom Diemer (352) 267-9502	Kevin Maxwell (850) 323-1020

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

I hope everyone had a happy and joyful Christmas. We enjoyed ours with a visit to New York State, where we spent time with our family and 9 of our grandchildren and our new great grandson. The only problem we encountered was that we had a snowstorm and our return flight was cancelled; we're not able to get another for three days.



It was with mixed emotions we said goodbye to our Grand Knight and his wife Barb as they move to North Carolina to be closer to family to assist them with some of the problems we too often experience as "WE GROW MORE MATURE". They have been good neighbors and will always remain the best of friends.

The K of C Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest awards were presented at the school mass on December 17th. The first place winner was Caiden Matthews, awarded \$100, a Certificate and entry in the State Competition, second place to Valeria Velilla-Pacheco, awarded \$75 and a certificate (however she was unable to attend as the family had left for Christmas vacation), third place went to Eli Highfill with an award of \$50 and a certificate. The competition was fierce with only four percentage points separating the top five essays.

Our scholarship raffle was a complete sellout and a special thanks to Chris Procise for his tireless effort.

As we start the New Year, we look forward to some of our busiest times. We must elect a new Deputy Grand Knight at our January meeting, we have our Citizens With Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) fund raiser and the Polish Dinner in February, then we start Lent (with the Ash Wednesday soup and sandwich and the Friday fish fries, yet to be finalized), for just a few, so don't be hesitant to volunteer.

With that my bride of 59 years and I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year.

Vivat Jesus!
Bill and Joyce Collins



Honorees

Knight of the Month (Pg. 2)



Family of the Month (Pg. 2)



**"DO YOU NOT HAVE
ONE HOUR TO
SPEND WITH ME"**

EVERY FRIDAY

9am Until 12 Noon

St. Paul's Church

**Exposition & Benediction
Everyone Welcome!**



Council #5644 Website
KofC5644.org

Florida State Website
FloridaKofC.org

Supreme Website
KofC.org



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Tom & Carol Cane, Jim Cecil, Ryan Cimino, Joyce Collins, Pat Detweiler, Tom & Cindy Diemer, Andrew Dul, Anthony Durkin, William Ehrbar, Gary Edwards, Melody Fraser, Stephen Gabriel, Susan Gaucher, Ron Golembiowski, Jim Gorman, Terry Graham, Maria Iturbe, Joey Landon, Dixie, Edward, Kathy, Ken and Marianne Lynch, Mike Magister, Greg Matthews, George & Linda Mello, DW Jerry & Joanne Moreau, Sonia Nikolai, Bob Nixon, Greg & Mark Ochalek, Dawn & Joni Pauline, Susan Polito, Al Ragona, Phil Reed, Rockin' Rose, Tom Schweitzer, Jim Suleski, Sharon Way, Haley Williams, Joan Woodson, Walt & Marilyn Young, Mary Clare Zedler.



LADIES' AUXILIARY

Greetings!

As we enter into this New Year may we find the Peace and Joy of Faith, Family and Friends. May God continue his Blessings on us and continue to overcome evil towards a restoration of Faith. Many have overcome challenges this past year and for that we are grateful. May we look forward to a growth in Faith and our church. Let us continue to pray for those in need, known and those kept in the silence of the suffering.

Our next meeting will be Feb 12, 2026 in the BMMM Center.

Faith over Fear in ALL things... Always!!

Cindy Diemer
Joyce Collins
Co-Presidents



mail: ladiesaux5644@aol.com



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

December Knight of the Month is Christopher Procise. Sir Knight Chris has been a Knight for 3 years and a 4th Degree for just over a year. Chris is Treasurer for Council 5644 and Purser for Assembly 1675. He's a Kitchen Krew member, pitches in at fish fries & picnics. Chris is the most successful chairman of our Scholarship Raffle, Selling Out for the 2nd year in a row; while increasing total tickets for sale by 100, to 600.

Your service as a Knight and to the Church are greatly appreciated. Congratulations on being selected Knight of the Month for December!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

December Family of the Month are Ryan, Nancy, Gianna & Giullano Cimino Family. Brother Ryan has been a Knight for just about a year; he currently is the Council Warden and is working on expanding our social media footprint, our outside advertising and helping us acquire access to accepting credit card sales. He also supported the parish Fish Fry and Trunk or Treat events.

Your service to the Knights and the Church are greatly appreciated. Congratulations on being selected Family of the Month for December!

St. Paul Council 5644

Monthly Mass Intention



Rest In Peace

During 2026, the Council will be sponsoring a Monthly Mass for the Intention of All Living & Deceased Members of St. Paul Council #5644

Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Apr. 22 at 8:30am
Wednesday, May 27 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Jun. 24 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Jul. 22 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Sep. 23 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 8:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 8:30am

The 2026 Annual Memorial Mass for the Deceased Members of Council 5644; Will be Sunday, November 15 at 9am



Membership Meeting Highlights

The December Membership Meeting was held the 10th, in the BMMMC; meetings are held the 3rd Wed.; Food Service: 5:15 to 6:15pm, Rosary 6:30p, Membership Meeting 7pm. (if no Exemplification)

Exemplification of Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity; All 1st & 2nd Degree Knights are encouraged and reminded they can immediately advanced to the 3rd Degree by merely attending an Exemplification; If you have not yet attained your 3rd Degree, sitting through this 30 minute ceremony automatically advances you! Contact your GK, Bill Collins.

GK Dick Davis opened the meeting with Prayer, then he lead the Pledge of Allegiance; GK then suspended the meeting to announce his resignation, relocating to N.C, the Gavel was then passed to DGK Bill Collins, he will finish the term; meeting was resumed, Motion made to Approve the prior meeting's Minutes, it was seconded and passed;

- GK report: None
- Chaplain Report: None
- Treasurer: Reported on accts;
- FS: in Good Order with Supreme; 2 Transfers-In: and 2 Candidates from Ministry Fair; Supreme was called to inquire about why we receive Columbian Magazine at the end of the month, they didn't know
- Kitchen: Jan. meeting we'll be back to cooking;
- Faith Dir: Would like to start visits to homebound members and pray the Rosary with them, checking with Ministry to the Sick for any conflicts; Dan Gonzalez to follow up on Adoration Hour status; promoted watching the "Greatest Miracle" video;
- Scholarship Raffle 2026: 600 tickets sold out; discussion on sending Pre-sale emails to members; we also sold approximately 40 KCIC car magnets;
- DD: No Report;
- Old Bus: JMJ Baby Bottle campaign yielded \$13k, thanks extended to the council for their help; 8th Grade Essay winners to be recognized on 12/17;
- New Business: nominations opened for DGK; the Polish Dinner will be 2/14, tickets go on sale 1/12; Citizens w/Disabilities Drive date still unknown; the Ash Wed. soup lunch & Lenten Fish Fries are TBD;
- Good of the Order: Honorees: KOM Christopher Procise and FOM Ryan, Nancy, Gianna & Giuliano Cimino were announced; Prayer List additions: Phil Reed, Jim Cecil, Mike Magister, Sonya Nikolai;
- Attendance Draw \$6 Won by Dan Gonzalez; 50/50: \$24 won by Chris Procise and donated back to the Council; Thank You!; 14 members present, meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.



Next Membership Meeting:
Wednesday, Jan. 21st



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



2 nd Paul J Boudreau 83	18 th Phillip E Ligienza 86
3 rd Paul F Bieber	23 rd Ryan Cimino
5 th Norbert D Hoffman 94	29 th Thomas B Clark
14 th Joey A Landon	Joseph Swiderski 91
15 th Art Donnelly	30 th Thomas J Strzelecki
Clyde R Kullman 84	31 st Thomas M Diemer
16 th Robert W Koznecki	

Attendance Drawing:

\$6 was WON! by Dan Gonzalez...!

Next month's drawing will be \$3.

You must be present to win!

50/50 Raffle:

\$24 was Won by Chris Procise and donated back to the council! Thank You!!

You have to be present to play & win!



MEMBERSHIP

As of 12/25/2025, the Council has 162 members: 70 insurance, 92 associate; 48 Honorary Life, 5 Honorary.

Tom Diemer, FS

COUNCIL SHIRTS & VESTS

Show you're a member of the Knights of Columbus by purchasing a council shirt or vest.



For information and ordering contact:

Tony Lause:
tonylause@gmail.com
or phone: 573-346-0643



"Prayer doesn't change God, it changes us. It's not about convincing him of our will. It's about surrendering to his will. That is when our souls dance for joy."
 ~ from Matthew Kelly's book
 (Rediscover the Rosary)

Ray Crowell, Faith Director

FIELD AGENT



If you have any questions or concerns about your coverage, policies, or our products Please call me (850) 323-1020

Kevin

WORDS OF WISDOM

"The future of evangelization depends in great part on the Church of the home. This apostolic mission of the family is rooted in Baptism and receives from the grace of the sacrament of marriage new strength to transmit the faith, to sanctify and transform our present society according to God's plan."

~ St. Pope John Paul II;
 from **Familiaris Consortio**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Paul Council 5644

Annual Citizens with Disabilities Fund Drive will be held before and after all Masses the weekend of February 7th & 8th



We Thank You for your continued support of this worthy project.



PGK Mark O's Corner Offering !

Peace be with you! We made it to 2026! "Should old acquaintance be forgot, / And never brought to mind? / Should old acquaintance be forgot, / And auld lang syne?" We're bound to hear a version of that no matter which TV network you prefer to view. My +Mom liked Guy Lombardo, growing up that's who we sang along with...

So what the heck does 'Auld Lang Syne' really mean? The phrase "auld lang syne" literally translates to "old long since," and basically means, "days gone by." Meant to bring up feelings of nostalgia and a love of old relationships and times gone by. So when you sing "auld lang syne, my dear" in the chorus, you're essentially cheering to days gone by, which is why people sing the song when they're remembering the good times. This may have been a difficult year for some. Whether it be due to the sting of losing a loved one, or suffering the effects of declining health ourselves. Wherever we may find ourselves, may we sing of the good times we did have and the Blessings that did come our way. Thankful that we can meet at the table of God and receive Him fully unto ourselves. Let us resolve to dedicate ourselves to Living and Practicing our Faith. And, in today's tumultuous world, we must include, Protect & Defend Our Faith!

Blessings for a Happy & Healthy New Year!



Vivat Jesu! Please Pray for Vocations!



"Carry it with you Always...

And Pray it Often!



JANUARY 2026



Jan 1 Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day 2026!



Jan 2 First Friday Adoration: 9am-12pm Church

St. Basil the Great



Jan 3 Most Holy Name of Jesus

Jan 3/4 Epiphany of Our Lord



Jan 5 St. John Neumann

Jan 9 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Jan 10/11 Baptism of The Lord



Jan 12 Polish Dinner Tickets on Sale

Jan 14 4th Degree Meeting ~ BMMMC ~ 7pm



Jan 16 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Jan 17 St. Anthony



Jan 17/18 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jan 20 SS. Fabian & Sebastian



Jan 21 St. Agnes

**Council Membership Meeting ~ BMMMC
Dinner 5pm ~ Rosary 6:30pm ~ Mtg 7pm**



Jan 22 Pray for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

Jan 23 St. Vincent

Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church



Jan 24 St. Francis de Sales



Jan 24/25 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jan 26 SS. Timothy & Titus



Jan 27 St. Angela Merici

Jan 28 St. Thomas Aquinas



Jan 30 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Jan 31 St. John Bosco



Jan 31/Feb 1 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 2026

Feb 1 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feb 2 Presentation of the Lord



Feb 3 St. Blaise



Feb 5 St. Agatha



Feb 6 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Feb 7/8 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Citizens With Disabilities Fund Drive @ All Masses

Feb 10 St. Scholastica



Feb 11 Our Lady of Lourdes



4th Degree Meeting ~ BMMMC ~ 7pm

Feb 13 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church

Feb 14 Valentines' Day



Annual Polish Dinner



Feb 14/15 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feb 16 Presidents' Day



Feb 18 Ash Wednesday



TBD Lenten Soup Dinner - HFR - 11am-2pm



**Council Membership Meeting ~ BMMMC
~ Rosary 6:30pm ~ Mtg 7pm**



Feb 20 Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church



TBD Lenten Fish Fry - SPCS Cafeteria 5-7pm



Feb 21/22 1st Sunday of Lent

Feb 23 St. Polycarp



Feb 27 St. Gregory of Narek

Friday Adoration: 9am - 12pm Church



TBD Lenten Fish Fry - SPCS Cafeteria 5-7pm



Feb 28/Mar 1 2nd Sunday of Lent





Knights in the News



**Grand Knight Dick Davis shown presenting the December Family of the Month award to:
Ryan & Nancy Cimino.**



**Farewell Grand Knight Dick Davis.
After resigning from Office, as he and Barbara leave for North Carolina...
He "Passes the Gavel" to Deputy Grand Knight Bill Collins, who will ascend to GK and complete the 2025-26 term.**



GK Dick presented the Knight of the Month awards to SK Kelly Way (Nov.) and SK Chris Procise (Dec.).



**The Council Wishes PGK Dick, best Wishes and God's Blessings in N.C.
We also pray that incoming GK Bill good health and our gratitude for accepting.**



2025 Council 5644 Christmas Social



St. Paul Council #5644 - St. Paul Catholic Church, Leesburg, FL



KofC 4th Degree Assembly 1675

1975 ~ 50th Anniversary Year ~ 2025



Coffee & Donuts for Vets

We will be at the Taveras V. A. Clinic Friday, Jan. 2nd from 8:30am until 10:30am serving coffee and donuts in appreciation to our veterans.

~~~~~

(Assembly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays at St. Paul's Blessed Michael McGivney Center, 1320 Sunshine Ave.)



The Assembly is in the process of re-establishing their Color Corps/Honor Guard

Any Sir Knight interested please contact our Faithful Navigator Tim Jaskiewicz  
50% of the uniform cost will be covered through the support of the Assembly.



### Calling All 3rd Degree Knights!!

All 3rd Degree Knights are invited to advance to the **FOURTH DEGREE** - The Patriotic Degree of the Order

Next Exemplification: January 31st in Tampa, FL  
(Contact Mark Ochalek for more Information)

#### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for 4th Degree, one must:

1. Be over 18 years of age.
2. Be a citizen of the United States.
3. Be a 3rd Degree member in good standing.
4. Be a practical Catholic.



## 2025 8th Grade Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest



The assigned theme: **The office of the papacy was established by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago when He chose St. Peter to lead His Church on earth.**

**In an essay of 500-750 words, out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?**

**First Place/ \$100 & entry into the State and Supreme competition:**

**Caiden Matthews**

**Second Place/\$75 and Certificate:**

**Valeria Velilla-Pacheco**  
 (not pictured)

**Third Place/\$50 and Certificate:**

**Eli Highfill**

The competition was fierce with only four percentage points separating the top five essays.





+++++



## BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY Pray for Us!

### ***A Litany of Blessed Michael McGivney***

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us. God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us. God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, ... Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary and Guardian of the Redeemer, St. Michael the Archangel, Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us. Humble Servant of God, ... Faithful Disciple of Jesus, Son of the Immaculate Heart, Obedient Son of the Church, Exemplary Priest of Purity, Zealous Priest of Christ, Gentle Shepherd of Souls, Devoted Parish Priest, Wise Counselor, Teacher of the Faith, Servant to All, Protector of the Poor, Defender of the Widow and Orphan, Friend of the Lonely and Suffering, Companion to the Imprisoned, Comforter of the Sick and Dying, Apostle of Christian Family Life, Father to the Young, Advocate of Workers, Evangelizer of Those Gone Astray, Champion of the Gospel of Life, Guardian of the Laity, Pastor of Immigrants, Exemplar of Charity, Model of Unity, Builder of Catholic Fraternity, Instructor of Christian Patriotism, Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael, humble in service, pray for us. Blessed Michael, devoted to the Sacred Heart, ... Blessed Michael, pure in heart, Blessed Michael, faithful in priestly duties, Blessed Michael, strong in suffering, Blessed Michael, peaceful in dying, Blessed Michael, conformed to Christ crucified, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord! Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord! Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us!

V/ Pray for us, Blessed Michael McGivney,

R/ That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. God, our Father, inspired by the heroic example of the life and virtue of your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body, which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and outcast. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.