

FR. MCCORMICK COUNCIL 3880

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 3880, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

KNIGHT LIFE



ISSUE NO 6 | DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 30



TOPIC 01

This Newsletter is
Chock full of news...
11 Pages!!

TOPIC 02

See the meaning of
the 12 Days of
Christmas...page 2

TOPIC 03

Rorate Caeli Mass reflection

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



Hello, Brother Knights,

As December comes to a close, we reflect on everything that we have accomplished as a team this month.

We successfully worked together to sell off our Christmas trees and wreaths. In parallel we assisted in the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" celebration ceremony providing the manpower to serve drinks and snacks. We had a wonderful turnout at the Santa Breakfast with records sales. We also had a crew of Knights work together to tear down the Christmas tree stand when sales were done.

Let's not forget the Council Christmas Party where we had a chance to celebrate together and reflect on our grand accomplishments.

Thank you to all that assisted at all of the multiple events. It's your support and fraternity that makes our council so strong. I am proud to be your Grand Knight.

Please enjoy time with your respective families celebrating Christmas. Best wishes to you all for a safe and grand New Year in 2026.

FROM PAGE I

God Bless.

Vivat Jesus

Cesar Jimenez
Grand Knight

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



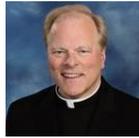
Merry Christmas to everyone from your Worthy Deputy Grand Knight. It is that time of year when we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Santa Claus or maybe your grumping old Uncle Scrooge. Whoever you wait for; it is a season of kindness; smiles, wishes and Christmas songs.

The 12 Day of Christmas is a very popular song sung everywhere this holiday season, did you know that the total number of gifts presented is 364. One for every day of the year except for the day Christ was born – Christmas Day. Have you ever wondered what these gifts represent for the Catholic faith. Here is what I was told by my grandmother many years ago. I am sure there are many other versions.

- A Partridge in a Pear tree represents Jesus Christ on the cross
- Two Turtle Doves relate to the Old and New Testaments
- Three French Hens are Faith, Hope and Charity
- Four Calling birds would be the Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
- Five Golden Rings represent the Torah (the first 5 books of the Bible)
- Six Geese-A-Laying relate to the number of creation days (God rested on the 7th)
- Seven Swans-a-Swimming are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Eight Maids-a-Milking are the Beatitudes.
- Nine Ladies Dancing are the 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Ten Lords-a-Leaping would be the Ten Commandments
- Eleven Pipers Piping represent the 11 Faithful Apostles
- Twelve Drummers Drumming relate to the 12 beliefs in the Apostle Creed

I hope everyone enjoys the Christmas season and looks for a blessed new year.

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Christmas season is a season to celebrate the joy and hope that our Savior's birth brings to the world. The feast days of St. Stephen (first martyr) and the Holy Innocents quickly remind us that in the midst of the Light of Christmas there is still much darkness in the world. We had a very cruel reminder of that this year on December 12, when Governor JB Pritzker signed into law Senate Bill 1950 which legalizes assisted suicide in the State of Illinois. This law makes our state one of 12 that legalize medically assisted suicide and most tragically further entrenches Illinois in support of death over life.

It is very important for us to know some of the evil truths that connect to the legalization of assisted suicide. This column will name just a few:

- Insurance companies are denying lifesaving treatment in favor of providing cheaper lethal drugs. This clearly emphasizes a priority of making profits over saving lives, and a very clear embrace of the Culture of Death.
- Evaluation of depression is virtually non-existent before lethal drugs are prescribed. Although most depression is treatable (and reversible) it has been seen as a reason for proponents of this bill to end people's lives, without any psychiatric evaluation.
- Proponents say this new law will relieve people of pain and yet pain or fear of pain is not the main reason (or even in the top five reasons) lethal drugs are requested. The bigger fears are of people not being able to care for themselves. Our Faith clearly commands that we are to care for one another and allow people to care for us.
- Six months diagnoses for death are inaccurate and unreliable. Proponents often sight that they are just staving off inevitable suffering and painful death which is just a short time away. Yet, as Jesus clearly told us, "No one knows the hour or the day."
- Anorexia nervosa is a treatable mental health condition and not a terminal illness. Proponents have labeled many diseases as terminal when they are actually treatable conditions.
- Suicide promotion and contagion become greater realities where assisted suicide is legalized. Unprompted suggestions of assisted suicide are being offered.
- People with disabilities fear assisted suicide due to coercion and abuse. No independent witness is required during the death of an individual, so there is no way to ensure that the individual administered the lethal dose himself or herself.
- Proponents of assisted suicide turn "safeguards" into "barriers". States where assisted suicide is legal have all seen "safeguards" be stripped away over time.
- Pease pray that legislators in the future will see the evil of this law and overturn it!

Peace, be with you,

Fr. Bob Jones

2025-26 OFFICERS

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PGK Pat Maguire

2 Year Trustee 815 354-668
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Membership (815) 528-3491
Robert Kosin

Newsletter (815) 790-5191
PGK, Tim Hicklin



CHANCELLOR'S THOUGHTS

Rorate Caeli Mass

Did you happen to attend the Rorate Caeli Mass at 6:30am on December 15 at Oak Street Church? If you didn't, you should the next time it's offered during Advent. Fr. Downing presided over the candle-lit mass as the first rays of dawn emerged. It was beautiful, peaceful, and spiritually moving.

Rorate Caeli is Latin for "Drop down, ye heavens" and are the first words of Isaiah 45:8, "Drop down dew ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just; let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior."

This Mass is celebrated before dawn during Advent as a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her role in bringing the Light of the World into this world of darkness. The church is lit only by candlelight (and maybe a couple small reading lights) and brings to mind the beginning of the Easter Vigil Mass where we hear the creation story with the church in darkness, lit only by candles. As the Mass progresses the church brightens with the light of dawn reminding us of Mary's role in brightening this dark and sinful world with the light of her son, Jesus.

There's a beautiful summary along with photos of the Mass on the St. Thomas the Apostle Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/IGWRFY2Lnm/>

Merry Christmas!

John Carzoli - Chancellor

LECTURER'S REFLECTIONS

Advent Reflection: Preparing Our Hearts for Christ

As we move through the season of Advent, we are invited to slow down and reflect more deeply on God's saving mission. Advent is not only a time of preparation for Christmas, but also a season to rediscover why Christ came into the world and how we are called to live as His disciples.

To help guide this reflection, the Knights of Columbus (on their website), has shared an Advent Reflection Series featuring **Dr. Jonathan Reyes**, Senior Vice President of Evangelization and Faith Formation for the Knights of Columbus. His reflections offer meaningful insight into the Sunday readings and encourage us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

The reflection for the **Second Sunday of Advent** invites us to consider Christ's "rescue mission" — His coming to restore, heal, and save. This message is especially relevant as we prepare for Mass, gather with our families, and reflect on the lighting of the Advent wreath candles throughout the season.

Brothers are encouraged to view the Second Sunday of Advent reflection and the remaining videos in the series, including the final reflection on the Epiphany:

Second Sunday of Advent Reflection with Dr. Jonathan Reyes

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/advent-reflections23.html?basic-tabs=two>

As Knights, husbands, fathers, and leaders in our communities, Advent gives us an opportunity to pause, refocus, and renew our commitment to living out our faith. May this season help us prepare not only for Christmas Day, but for welcoming Christ more fully into our daily lives.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 2025



Well, **WOW** doesn't even come close!!! This morning's annual **Breakfast with Santa** surpassed everyone in the past: in 2023 we served 324 happy smiling customers... last year in 2024 that number jumped to 341... today??? **359!** Not only that, but after the 9:00 Mass we served a single mass record of 207 people, more than a very good ENTIRE 3 mass Monthly Breakfast! I just can't say enough of the Kitchen Crew... These guys worked their butts off minute after minute after minute... no relaxing, no time off, just cook, cook, cook... 40 of the special White menus, 54 of the Green Children's menus, 34 Pink Meat Lovers, 93 Regular Blue menus and 138 of the Special Yellow menus.. 191 of them, or 52% had bacon. We sold all the steaks that we had... We made a double batch of Pancake batter, then made a **SECOND** double batch... we ran out of white toast so had to go buy more... we ran out of Ham! We had over 30 Waffles. almost 100 omelets... hundreds and hundreds of eggs! We were blessed with the St. Thomas School Athletic Department providing students to serve, along with Boy Scouts from the Troop... all the work we did in the kitchen was matched and then some by the back kitchen crew of **Bob, Joe, Mark, Dennis** and **Matt** washing the dishes... over and over! Poor **DGK Knight Bransley** was the one calling orders and they never stopped coming in... imagine 10 o'clock comes along and you are inundated with over 200 orders to call in to the 2 guys on the grills, **Bob Newport** and **Jim Stefani**, plus the waffle man, **Jim McKinnon**, and the toast guy, **Tim DeLance!** And then **Dan O'Connell** had to plate them all! To say nothing of **Warden Pat Slowey** constantly doing the sausage and bacon and potatoes in the ovens, trying to keep up! And in the dining room, so beautifully decorated by **PGK Bransley** and his large crew on Saturday morning... with **Ned, Rob, Robert, Matt, Stuart, Tom** keeping the room humming along all morning. And of course, **Annette** and **Vicki** keeping all in order. And of course, the real star of the event, **Santa Clause** was there as every year to bring all the smiles and laughter and glee to the hundreds of kids coming in and staring stary eyed at him and wishing and hoping... And not to forget the wonder of the train displays by **Vito** and **Ned...** just that much more magic in the air... God Bless everyone who did their part to make this a day to remember! Merry Christmas to all!

Hope to see you there on January 18th for the next round of working on our Charitable Goals to kick off the New Year! ... one side of the counter or the other... John



MEMBERSHIP COLUMN

Gifts We Bring

The two questions most asked of the Membership Director is why become a Knight and now that I am a Knight, what next ? The answer is the same, Charity.

To understand the answer is to reflect on the journey of the Three Kings—each traveler moving forward with a different gift, a different strength, and a different role, yet all guided by the same steady light of faith. Their path was not defined by how far they traveled or how grand their offerings appeared, but by their willingness to follow the Star with humility and purpose.

*The observance on January 6th of Three Kings' Day (Epiphany) reminds us of the revelation that acts of service are Charity: a moment of understanding that our gifts matter most when they are offered in humility and love. When we follow that guiding Star of our Faith, service becomes not a task, but a shared pilgrimage toward the principles of our order, Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

In the same way, true acts of Charity in Council 3880 are not measured by recognition, position, or visible achievement. It is measured by intention: the choice to give what we uniquely carry, to honor the dignity of others, and to uplift those we encounter along the way. Charity asks us to listen, to learn, and to move forward even when the destination is not fully clear trusting the light that calls us beyond ourselves. We discover that the true treasure is not what we bring, but who we become—and that in serving others, we are already richly rewarded. By the calendar, the commercial gift giving season is over but not what the Knights of Columbus have to offer; make the journey, continue the journey. Vivat Jesus



Knights of Columbus
FOURTH
DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.

FOURTH DEGREE REPORT

If you are interested in joining the Patriotic Degree, we have two Exemplifications scheduled so far in 2026. The first is at St. Dennis church in Lockport on February 7, 2026. You can find registration information [here](#) if you would like to attend as an observer. If you would like to take your next step in Knighthood and become a Sir Knight, please ask one of the many Sir Knights of our Council or myself to be your Proposer but time is of the essence as the date is quickly approaching.

If that date doesn't work for you, we will be having another Exemplification on June 27th at St. Norberts Catholic Church in Northbrook. More information to follow on this event after the February 7th Exemplification.

The Assembly has been busy with Honor Guards this past month. We provide one at St. John the Baptist in Johnsburg for a Confirmation with Bishop Malloy. We provided another at Holy Apostles in McHenry for their Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. This event was attended by over 1,000 parishioners.

The Assembly has two (2) uniform allowances of \$200 left for this fraternal year. It is on a first-come, first-reimbursed basis. You must submit a **paid receipt** along with the reimbursement form to receive payment. You can order the uniform [here](#). The sword and scabbard package can be found [here](#). Our Council has a \$100 allowance uniform allowance as well (maximum of 5) so you could get up to \$300 back on a uniform purchase. Hurry before the Assembly runs out their allotment.

If you haven't been out to the Assembly website in a while, you can find it [here](#). We are updating it with Council events going on with those Councils who make up our Assembly so check it often.

Our next Assembly meeting is on **January 14, 2026**, at 7:30 PM at Holy Apostles in McHenry. If you are a Sir Knight and are not receiving the meeting invites or other Assembly emails, please let me know and I can update your email address to rectify the situation. If you have purchased the uniform for the 4th Degree and are not receiving the Honor Guard callouts, please let me know as well so I can add you to that list.

Merry Christmas and all the best to you and yours in 2026. God bless you and your families and God Bless the United States of America.

CHRISTMAS TREES 2025 RECAP

- **Big concern, had 10 inches of snow on November 29th closed the stand at 2pm. Sold 12 trees.**
- Matt Martin came in with his blower and blew all the trees off, and Mike B. snow blew walkways
- 8th year for the tree vendor High Ground Tree Farm from Merrill Wis. 245 trees were ordered.
- Got 7-8' Fraser Firs this year – 50 trees, sold OK. Need to advertise we have Fraser Firs again
- Brought back Balsam Firs, sold OK.
- No large trees at 11' – 12' feet, couldn't get them. Had 9'-10' Cannan's and Balsam's that sold OK.
- 14th year for the Wreath vendor from Ogema Wis. 72 wreaths ordered, all OK. Advent Wreaths, ordered 50 units with Boxes; we provided prayers. Also offered candles, set of 4. Sold Advent Wreaths inside the church and from the trailer out in the parking lot after the Masses on weekends. Matt and Bob did the selling of the Advent Wreaths in the church. The Pierson Street Knights sold 13 out of the 25. We sold the rest at Oak Street church. Not a good response this year. My lower amount to 40 units.
- Set-up for the tree lot was on November 8, 8am – 11:30am good turn-out. Good weather.
- Joe S. & Bob W. went up to Ogema Wis. On November 8, and picked up and delivered the wreaths and advent wreaths to Crystal Lake. Fr. Fitzpatrick blessed all the wreaths on November 9, 2025. Mike B., Bob W., Matt C. Joe S. and family put provided bows on the wreaths on November 15, in the shed.
- Saturday November 22, off- loaded the trees in the mid-morning, good turn-out for help. Also cut all the roping off the trees. Over 25 people showed up to off-load the trees, done in 1 hour. Good weather.
- Sales started at 9:00am **November 23**, help for weekend was OK. Sold 80 trees day after Thanksgiving.
- Completed sales **December 20, 2025. Tear Down December 20, 2025. All who helped Thank You!!!**

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Christmas Trees 2025 Recap

From Page 6

Date of Start & Finish of Sales November 23 - December 20, 2025

Comments:

- First time in a long time we had Fraser Firs. 50 7-8' trees
- Due to the addition of Fraser Firs, we lowered the amount of Cannan Firs to 70 trees, instead of 120.
- All the trees had a great shape, some of the tops, and bottoms not so good
- Gave away Trees: 2 7- 8' Balsam's, 2 9-10' Balsam, 4 7- 8' Fraser Firs, 2 7-8' & 1- 9-10' Cannan's
- Will discuss tree order for next year and advertising we have Fraser Fir trees now
- Tree Blessing laminated cards, customers really like them again
- Again, CC Machine was used with the items entered, great tracking of inventory and money
- More help was needed, especially during the week for sales.
- Other Expenses:
 - Twine for attaching trees to cars
 - Laminated price cards and prayer cards for tree blessing
 - Advent Candles
 - \$100.00 gift cards for Joe Scherb & Matt Kebr for gas and trail use, wreath pick-up

Thank you all who work the tree stand and bought trees from us!!
Tree Committee 2025
Mike Kebr, Bob Wyman, Matt Carzoli, Joe Scherb & Mike Brucker
Merry Christmas to All

Blood Drive Jan 10, 2026

Start the New Year Off Right...Save Three Lives

Council 3880 will be having a blood drive on January 10th from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Oak Street Community Center. Come and give a pint and save three lives. Each donation helps three people with maladies such as traumatic injuries, cancer, blood disorders like sickle cell disease, severe burns, and those undergoing surgery or organ transplants. It can also be separated into components like red blood cells, platelets, and plasma to help in other situations.

Our Council, in conjunction with Versiti Blood Centers of Illinois, has a goal of 39 units that would affect 117 lives. All it takes is for you to roll up your sleeve and give a pint to make that happen. The holiday season is a time of need and blood banks are already at a dangerously low level and need to be replenish their supply. Help us make our goal and help our neighbors. The blood you give stays local to help the Chicagoland area.

You can make an appointment to donate by clicking [here](#) and pick a time that is convenient for you on January 10th. If you would rather talk to someone to make an appointment, please feel free to call Dan O'Connell at 224-456-5098 and I will set you up. You can also walk in but an appointment is preferred.

As an added incentive, if you sign up and put the word "SPARK" in the notes section, you will be eligible to receive a \$25 ecard when you donate. Savings lives and a free gift...such a deal!! Hope to see you there.



Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE

December 2025

“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Gospel for Dec. 7, Mt 3:10)

In these reflections over the past year, we have meditated on the importance of our faith bearing fruit in good works. In a way, this Gospel passage, quoting St. John the Baptist, might seem out of place during Advent. But throughout this season, we reflect not only on Christ’s coming in the incarnation, but also his second coming in judgment at the end of the world. Let us pray and work to ensure we lead truly faithful and fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

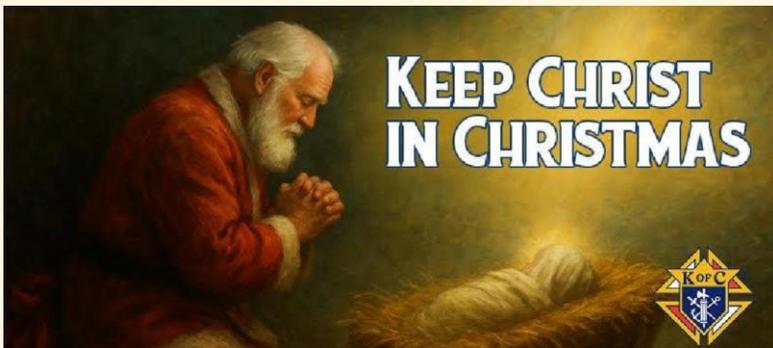
Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the four last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — to better prepare yourself for eternity.

Questions for Reflection:

Do I live with my sights set on heaven? Am I aware of the reality of hell? Do I live my life so as to be prepared for my death and judgment?

3880 MEMORIES



PRO-LIFE REPORT

Pope Leo recognizes all individuals, regardless of background, are God's Children

Pope Leo XIV consistently emphasizes that all individuals are **children of God**, a fundamental shared dignity that transcends political differences and calls for unity, dialogue, and compassion. He stresses that the Church does not belong to any political party and should instead focus on promoting the common good and human flourishing for everyone.

Key aspects of his message:

- **Universal Dignity:** He has stated that in a society where religion plays a visible role, "it is essential to honor the dignity and freedom of all God's children, both men and women, fellow nationals and foreigners, poor and rich".
- **Beyond Politics:** Pope Leo has urged people not to use political categories to speak about faith, emphasizing that the Church helps form conscience but doesn't align with a specific party. He views the pursuit of the "City of God" as a way to infuse earthly society with values of justice, charity, and humility, in contrast to the "City of Man" which is marked by the pursuit of power and pleasure.
- **Unity and Dialogue:** He consistently calls for building bridges instead of walls and for dialogue and encounter to unite all people. He has specifically highlighted the need for world religions to act together to alleviate human suffering and care for the planet, as "our world needs our unity, our friendship and our collaboration".
- **Common Good:** The Pope encourages political leaders to prioritize the common good and never lose sight of the marginalized and vulnerable, the "forgotten ones". He has defined politics as a "lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good".

In essence, Pope Leo's message is that the shared identity as children of God should drive humanity to work together for peace, justice, and the well-being of all, putting aside divisive political and personal interests.

Respectfully submitted

Pete Harren, ProLife Director



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FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

JANUARY 2026

Knights Birthdates		Knights Continued		Wives Birthdates		Anniversaries
Edward W "Ned" Holland	01-01	Thomas J Dawson	01-19	Tricia Carzoli	01-21	Per Supreme records, there are no Brother Knights with wedding anniversaries in the month of January. If the information in your file is inaccurate, please contact the Financial Secretary, John Stefani, at jstefani44FS3880@aol.com , or (815) 679-6596 to have your file updated. Thanks!
Richard M Costabile	01-05	Robert E Frazier	01-19	Pamela Wyman	01-29	
Jose Villasenor	01-05	Jorge R Gomez	01-21			
Robert M Telmanik	01-06	Brian D O'Connell	01-22			
Jose Guimaray	01-09	PGK Michael E Bradley	01-26			
Tom Ryan	01-09	Joel R Lewon	01-26			
Javier Ramirez	01-10	Stuart Liegel	01-27			
Capt Jack R Scott	01-10	Matthew J Turk	01-28			
Angel Alvarado	01-11	Frank Willy	01-28			
Patrick Strong	01-12	Andrew S Popp	01-29			
Glenn D Kosiba	01-14	Thaddeus F "Ted" Duda	01-30			
Todd P Ray	01-14					
John C Carzoli	01-15					
PGK Joseph M Scherb	01-17					
Michael L Gregus	01-18					
Dr. Lamont M Sprague	01-18					

FIFTH SUNDAY – MARCH 29, 2026 – 9:00AM

5th SUNDAY March 30, 2026

Sunday March 29, 2026 is a Fifth Sunday of the month for which the 9AM Mass is in memory for the Deceased Members of Council 3880 including our namesake Father Edwin A. McCormick. Please consider attending in your Black or Blue Council Shirt and for those Past Grand Knights, the White Shirt as a worthy memento of your service to the Council. But attendance should not limit the moment of prayer on that day. As well as attending or streaming Mass that day, find a place to hear an inner voice or view of His creation and if the weather is conducive, stand outside on that Sunday, long enough to say a decade.



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

And from the gentle repetition of each prayer be mindful of our deceased members, their faith in their clergy, love of Our Lady and how each lived a life in recognition of Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori.

Robert Kosin

COUNCIL NEXT THREE-MONTH CALENDAR



DEC/JAN 2025/26	FEBRUARY 2026	MARCH 2026
12/24 Christmas Eve 12/25 Christmas Day 12/30 Officers Meeting 12/31 New Year's Eve 1/1 New Years Day 1/6 Business Meeting 1/10 Blood Drive 1/10-17-24-031 TMIY 1/17 Confirmation 1/18 Breakfast 1/21 Caballeros De Colon 1/22 Food Pantry 1/27 Officers Meeting 1/31 Polish Dinner	2/3 Business Meeting 2/7 Free Throw Contest 2/7,14,21,28 TMIY 2/15 Breakfast 2/18 Caballeros De Colon 2/18 Ash Wednesday 2/24 Officers Meeting 2/26 Food Pantry 2/26 Clergy Dinner (tentative)	3/3 Business Meeting 3/4 Ash Wednesday 3/15 Breakfast 3/17 St Paddy's Day 3/18 Caballeros 3/21 St Paddy's Dinner 3/22 Christian Service Fair 3/26 Food Pantry 3/28 Blessing of Baskets 3/29 Palm Sunday 3/29 Fifth Sunday 3/31 Officers Meeting



Prayer for the Canonization of Fr. Michael J McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, 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 the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, bless our parish, our Knights of Columbus Council and Lady's Auxiliary. Amen.



Pope Leo XIV



Sponsored by The Knights of Columbus

Make the Right Choice. Life is not Your Choice. It's Your Responsibility!

