



Sword & Shield



Council 4726

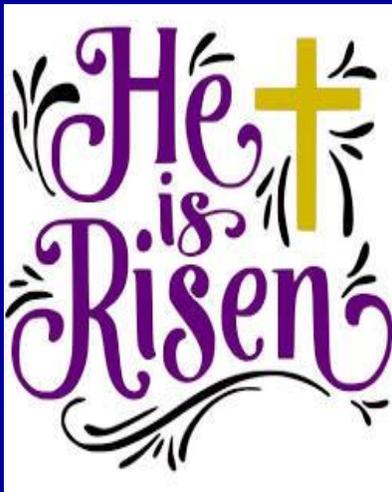
Assembly 1500

Winter Haven, Florida

Apr 2021 Vol 52:10

Meeting Nights

- Council 3rd Tues 7:00 pm
- Assembly 2nd Mon 7:00 pm
- Bldg Assoc 1st Thurs 7:00 pm
- Columbiettes 2nd Thurs 6:00pm



March 28th Palm Sunday

April 4th Easter

April 6th Degree Ceremony 7 pm

April 12th Fourth Degree Officer Nominations

April 21st Council Officer Nominations

April 25-26th KOC State Bowling Tournament

From the Grand Knight
Rod Mullen



Wow!! In like a Lamb and out like a Lion?? March has certainly lived up to its slogan. We are getting ready for April and many things have happened in March that we have cause to reflect on. Like a breath of fresh air Saturday, the 13th of the Month came to the lands of the Knights of Columbus. We put our frustrations and anxieties aside and planned a picnic. Knowing many have felt penned in for the past year. We did not know how many would be interested in coming. We set the main course as fish, with the usual trimmings, fries, coleslaw etc. We asked for those interested to sign up. 50 did and 50 showed up. It was held in the Pavilion, where we had plenty of seating. Father Jimson said the prayers and we dug in. I am happy to say all had a great time and expressed the food was tremendous. Of course, the best thing about it was the companionship of those we have not seen for a while. Needless to say, we are going to plan more get togethers, I hope you can attend.

We as Knights have been very busy trying to bring in more Knights,

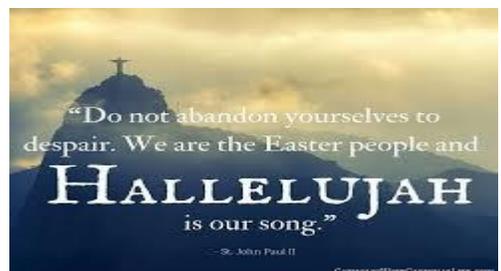
they are needed. If you know of someone, please approach them and ask them. Some have not thought of becoming a Knight and it is only when asked, it triggers the thought “ why haven’t I joined?”. Trust me they might surprise you.

Along the other lines of business, our Bingo functions have been a Blessing to many. Being able to afford to help our Church and School and the Community. We continue to work to provide what we do. As I have said before it is a dedicated group of men and women who continue to provide the time and effort.

Last year our dear brother, Larry Cardarelli set in motion the idea of providing 10 wheelchairs for his favorite Charity, Spina Bifada. They arrived and were picked up by Jim Borkowski and John Jennings. We are storing them until the group can find adequate storage themselves. God rest Larry’s soul.

We have resumed our meeting schedule for the Council. The first and third Tuesday of each month. The show up time 6:30 , the meetings start at 7pm. See you there...

God Bless...Rod



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Council Meeting Message April 2021

Easter greetings to all my members and your families! As a time of preparation, Lent helped us focus on the sacrifice of Good Friday and the hope of the Resurrection. I hope this season brings you much joy and happiness!

That sense of rebirth that comes with our Easter celebrations also can be noticed in the change in weather. I've got a few plants to transplant, some clean-up needed around the outside of the house, I see a window that's been cracked...and my "honey do" list is getting longer and longer.

I've found that I'm much more efficient with a list of chores if I write down all that I need to do. Then I go back through my list and rank order them for importance. Sometimes I get to choose the order; sometimes the order is chosen for me. In either event, the best part comes when I get to cross off the chore as being done. Maybe it's the visual of seeing one more item completed...it gives me a sense of accomplishment.

In keeping with that list theme, put me on the list; up at the top since it relates to your family's financial security. A virtual meeting over the computer is a way for us to meet safely and efficiently. We can discuss your needs, wants and desires. What's changed? Let's make sure nothing stands in the way of reaching your goals. The Order has provided me with a new needs analysis program to help you track where you are, where you want to go, and how well you're progressing on your financial journey.

Mine is an item you can cross off your list and really feel good about it.

Wishing you Easter joy!

Vivat Jesus!

Tom



John Richards, on behalf of the Knights, presents a check for \$500 to Becky Roach for Easter Egg Hunt

Congratulations to the new Fourth Degree Knights!



Our Newest Knight
Jorge Lucen and his family! Welcome!



Fr. Jimson received \$20,000 from the Knights towards the school roof.

Seven Last Words – Gospel Reflection for Good Friday

Ponder today, this dark day, the final words of Jesus. Scripture records seven last statements, or the “Seven Last Words.” Take each phrase and spend time with it. Seek the deeper spiritual meaning for your life.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Jesus’ forgiveness of others was radical and to a degree never seen before. While hanging on the Cross and enduring the cruelty of others, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness. He forgave them in the midst of His persecution.

What’s more is that He even acknowledged that those crucifying Him were not fully responsible. They clearly did not know what they were doing. This humble acknowledgment of Jesus shows the depth of His tender mercy. It reveals He died not in anger or resentment, but in willing sacrifice.

Can you say these words? Can you call to mind the person who has hurt you and pray that the Father forgives them? Leave judgment to God and offer mercy and forgiveness.

“I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What a consolation it must have been for the good thief to hear these words. He must have been experiencing a certain despair in life at that moment as he, along side of Jesus, was dying on a cross. What a gift it was to be there next to the Savior of the World, sharing in the sufferings of Christ in such a real way. And this man was privileged to be among the first to receive this gift of salvation won by Jesus on the Cross.

Jesus offers us the same assurance. He offers salvation to us beginning today. And He offers it to us in the midst of our own suffering and sin. Can you hear Him offer you this gift of mercy? Can you hear Him invite you to share His gift of everlasting life? Let Him speak this invitation to you and let the eternal life of paradise begin to take hold more deeply today in your soul.

“Woman, behold your son.”

What a gift! Here, dying on the Cross, Jesus entrusted His own mother to John. And in so doing, He entrusted her to each one of us. Our unity with Jesus makes us a member of His family and, thus, sons and daughters of His own mother. Our Blessed Mother accepts this responsibility with great joy. She embraces us and holds us close.

Do you accept Jesus’ mother as your own spiritual mother? Have you fully consecrated yourself to her? Doing so will place you under her mantle of protection and love.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Jesus was not abandoned but He allowed Himself to feel and experience this complete loss of the Father in His human nature. He felt the deep experience of despair. He allowed Himself to know and experience the effects of sin. Therefore, He knows what we go through when we despair. He knows what it feels like. And He is there with us in those temptations enabling us to press on through any despair toward total faith and trust in the Father.

“I thirst.”

What a meaningful statement. He thirsted physically at that moment for water to quench His dehydration. But more than that, He thirsted spiritually for the salvation of all of our souls. Jesus’ spirit still longs for this gift of salvation. He longs to call us His children. He thirsts for our love.

Ponder Jesus saying these words to you. “I thirst for you!” He says. It is a deep and burning thirst for your love. You satiate Jesus’ thirst by returning that love. Satisfy His thirst this Good Friday by giving Him your love.

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

These are the words we need to pray more than any. These are the words of complete surrender to God. Prayer is ultimately about one thing. It’s about surrender. It’s about trust. Say these words over and over today and let this perfect surrender of Jesus also be your surrender.

Surrender means God is in control. It means that we let go of our own will and choose only God’s. And it means that God pledges to accept our surrender and guide us into the perfect plan He has in mind for us.

“It is finished.”

It’s significant that He said “It is finished” as His last words. What does this mean? What is finished?

This spiritual statement from Jesus is one that affirms that His mission of the redemption of the whole world is accomplished. “It” refers to His perfect sacrifice of love offered for all of us. His death, which we commemorate today, is the perfect sacrifice which takes away the sins of all. What a gift! And what a sacrifice Jesus endured for us!

We are used to seeing this sacrifice on the Cross. We ponder this sacrifice every time we look at the crucifix. But it is important to note that our over-familiarity with the Cross can tempt us to lose sight of the sacrifice. It’s easy for us to miss what Jesus actually did for us. He accomplished the act that saves us and He is now offering it to us. Let this completed act of Divine Mercy penetrate your soul. He desires to say that His sacrifice has “finished” its work in your soul.

So today, on this Good Friday, it would be good if we spent the day pondering the reality of Jesus’ sacrifice. Try to understand what it was like for God Himself to suffer and die. Contemplate what it was like for God Himself, the Creator of all things, to be put to death by those whom He created, to suffer at the hands of those whom He loved with a perfect love.

Understanding Jesus’ sacrificial love will enable us to love as He did. It will enable us to love those who have hurt us and those who persecute us. His love is total. It is generous beyond description.

Lord, I know You thirst for my soul. You finished what You started by dying on the Cross for my salvation and the salvation of the world. Help me to understand Your love and to accept it into my life. Help me to forgive. Help me to invite you into my own darkness and sin. Help me to abandon all to You. I thank You, dear suffering Lord, for the gift of Your Precious Blood, poured out for the salvation of the world. Jesus, I trust in You.



KNIGHT of the MONTH

BRIAN HARTPENCE

Brian became a Knight in 2012. During these past ten years he has left his imprint on the Council. He was a two-year Grand Knight taking the council to the Star Level. Afterward he was the Assembly's two-year Faithful Navigator. Currently he is one of the Council's trustees and the Assembly's Comptroller. Two years ago, he stepped up to be the Council's Bingo Chairman, keeping the council charity contributions flowing.

Brian was the Boy Scout Leader for many years. He brought the Boy Scouts and Knights of Columbus together where the two groups have shared many projects. The Scouts now can call the Knights home.

Brian is also the council's hall maintenance supervisor keeping the building running. He has updated the Bingo Equipment to 21st Century. Council 4726 and Assembly 1500 have the most state-of-the-art Bingo system in Central Florida. He has updated the Church's live streaming equipment allowing St Joseph Church to provide live Mass to parishioners during the Covid-19 pandemic.

GETTING TO KNOW JOSEPH

The Church's appreciation for the head of the Holy Family has developed over millennia By Mike Aquilina

Many Catholics might be surprised to learn that widespread devotion to St. Joseph is relatively new in the life of the Church. The feast of St. Joseph wasn't widely celebrated until the 16th century, and his title as Patron of the Universal Church — not to mention the feast of the Holy Family — did not come until the late 1800s.

Yet perhaps we shouldn't be too surprised that it took so long for devotion to St. Joseph to develop, for he was never one to draw attention to himself. The New Testament records not a single word spoken by him. He appears briefly in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and only in their opening chapters. In John, he gets two drive-by mentions and in Mark none at all.

But for the most part, Christians of the first millennium chose to ignore Joseph. He required too much explanation, and they were occupied with other questions. Great bishops of the fifth century, St. Augustine and St. John Chrysostom, spoke well of Joseph, emphasizing his role in God's plan and expanding on the Gospel's characterization of him as a "just man" (Mt 1:19). But these few sermons still fell short of what the Church calls veneration.

That kind of notice came only with the ninth century, when Joseph began to appear in prayer books. In the later Middle Ages, he was still usually depicted in art as an old man, but preachers like St. Bernardine of Siena began to propose Joseph as a model for men to imitate, especially husbands and fathers.

He came to the fore in the spirituality of the Catholic Reformation. St. Francis de Sales took St. Joseph as patron of the religious order he founded, and St. Teresa of Ávila placed her reformed order under his patronage. In her autobiography she urged all those who took up the life of prayer to devote themselves to St. Joseph in a special way.

It was in the New World, however, that devotion to St. Joseph came to flourish most fully. This is the conclusion of Father Joseph Chorpensing, OSFS, a great historian of devotion to St. Joseph.

"A sizable segment of the population of the New World did not know what it meant to have a father," Father Chorpensing explained in an essay on the evangelization of Mexico. The European conquest, and the diseases that came with it, devastated native populations and orphaned countless children. At the same time, many conquistadores had children with Indigenous women but took little care for their offspring. Franciscan missionaries introduced devotion to St. Joseph in order to give these children a fatherly presence in their lives.

Veneration of St. Joseph, though virtually absent in the first millennium, found fulfillment at the second, especially as papal teaching and liturgical developments gave increasing prominence to him (see sidebar).

St. Joseph has not changed, of course. What he was in the New Testament, he has remained through all Christian history: the earthly father of our Savior, the chaste and loving husband of the Virgin Mary, an iconic witness to the dignity of work, and an effective guardian of the Church throughout the world. As devotion develops over time, we can see all of this more clearly.

We thank the ladies for making mats for the homeless and needy!



Bulletin Supporters

Larry & Bernadette Feit
Bob & Jane Thibodeau

Memorial Committee

Chuck Langbein
Charles Proctor

Franciscan Missions Stamp Program

The Franciscan Friars have asked us to help with their stamp program by sending them cancelled stamps. They use these stamps in their mission work to help the hungry and needy people. When you get a letter with a stamp on it, please cut it off, put in an envelope and bring to the Council. There is a box just inside the Council's lounge door where it can be deposited. This is especially important toward the end of the year when people get stamps on Christmas cards. I have asked my community to save them for us. maybe you could do the same. When we get a box full Jim Riley will send to the Franciscan Friars in Wisconsin.

Medical Equipment

Dear Brother Knights, If you have a walker, cane, crutches, wheelchair or other items you no longer need, and you would like to donate them to the Council, please contact Mike Wadsworth at 863-224-6490 Email mikey.1952@gmail.com Mike will pick the items up and make them available to brother Knights that can use them.

Pictures in the newsletter are contributed by Carlos Ayunta as well as many members of the Knights! We appreciate everyone's contributions! We also welcome submissions for events. Send to Tom Berdis tberdis@gmail.com or 863-224-2906



Past Grand Knights

Harlan L. Newton*	1958-59
Michael Trabulsky*	1959-60
Omer R. McDuff*	1960-61
Paul D. Wells	1961-62
Raymond R. McKenna*	1962-63
Joseph W. Higgins*	1963-64
Steve N. Voytowich*	1964-65
Vance G. Layton*	1965-66
Charles E. Langbein, Jr.	1966-67
Norman J. Lenahan*	1967-68
Eddie Smythe*	1968-69
James J. Waters*	1969-70
Ralph Diaz*	1970-71
William McLin*	1971-72
Matthew McEnaney*	1972-73
Joseph Whitehurst, Sr.	1973-75
Charles E. Langbein, Jr.	1975-77
James Nallan*	1977-78
Gerald Roach	1978-80
Ralph Hanick	1980-81
Joseph Dobbs, Sr.*	1981-82
Edwin Maddex*	1982-83
Albert Openshaw, Sr.*	1983-84
Frank Lerza*	1984-85
Dante Batilla	1985-86
Ralph Diaz*	1986-87
Neal W. Oliver*	1987-88
Glen Wynne	1988-89
Conrad Plante*	1989-90
Raymond McKenzie*	1990-91
John Gabrick	1991-92
Tom Norton	1992-94
Mark Smurr*	1994-95
Mitchell Blackwelder	1995-96
Peter Noor*	1996-97
Len Winget*	1997-99
Cranston Montcalm	1999-01
Doug Clinger	2002-03
Aaron Corkum	2003-04
Ron Feschak	2004-05
Thomas D. Nantz	2005-07
James H. Read	2007-09
Everett Evans	2009-10
Charles Proctor	2010-11
Russ Moulton*	2011-12
Mike Lopez	2012-13
Bob Gillispie	2013-14
Mike Carter*	2014-15
Tom Berdis, Jr.	2015-16
Brian Hartpence	2016-18
*Deceased	



Chuck Langbein, Maureen Loughlin, Cindy Walter, Paul Wells, Kayla Berdis, Bob & Jane Thibodeau, Bob Nelson, Joe Hydoski, Kevin Truex, Kathy Thompson, John McNabb, Mike Lopez, Lynne Richards, Rod Mullen, Jim Sirera, Doug Murray, Tony Garcia, Trish Ochoa, Jim Zentgraft, Paul Wells, Everett Evans, Mike Wadsworth, Ed Hunter, Henry Watkins (deceased)

Our continued prayers for all military personnel, Christians who are persecuted, children around the world, spiritual leaders, public officials and for those who need prayer.

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who have been infected with the virus (COVID-19). Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones. We especially prayer for all people close to us that have experienced illness related to the virus. May the Lord heal all!

Easter celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead

The resurrection of Jesus is a magnificent event that shows the realization of our Christian faith. In [1 Corinthians 15:17](#), Saint Paul wrote that "unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain." By sacrificing himself, Jesus Christ saved humanity from the shackles of sin. His eventual resurrection is a promise of a new life. It shows us that our faith in him is alive and powerful.

This event is also a powerful reminder to us all that trusting in God will pull you up even from the depths of despair.



Pray the Rosary Daily

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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For Brothers Knights by Brother Knights

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Grand Knight	Rod Mullen	324-6850
D Grand Knight	Rick Ochoa	326-0111
Chancellor	Jim Sierra	604-7647
Warden	Ray Taylor	604-7068
Financial Sec.	Jim Borkowski	602-6651
Treasurer	Carlos Ayunta	407-508-00
Recorder	Ken Nesbit	221-6477
District Deputy	Tom Berdis	224-2906
Advocate	Larry Cardarelli	965-7192
Inside Guard	Tim Jackman	307-9209
Outside Guard	Ricky Lopez	293-2962
Trustee (1)	John Richards	221-5499
Trustee (2)	Brian Hartpence	967-8062
Trustee (3)	Mike Wadsworth	224-6490

Officers for Assembly 1500

Friar	Fr. Jimson Varghese	294-3144
Navigator	John Richards	967-1600
Captain	Rod Mullen	324-6850
Admiral	Tom Habina	324-0581
Pilot	Tim Jackman	307-9209
Comptroller	Brian Hartpence	967-8062
Purser	Carlos Ayunta	407-508-0071
Faithful Scribe	Ken Nesbitt	221-6477
Inner Sentinel	Raymond Taylor	604-7068
Outer Sentinel	Tony Corrente	206-0775
1 st Year Trustee	Larry Cardarelli	965-7192
2 nd Year Trustee	Tom Berdis	224-2906
3 rd Year Trustee	Chris Erich	207-2638
Color Guard Cmdr	Tom Shaver	271-0229

Committeemen

Bingo Chairman	Brian Hartpence	967-8062
Bingo Co-Chairman	Jim Sierra	604-7647
Bowling Chairman	Tom Berdis	293-5528
Cemetery of Innocence	Ray Taylor	604-7068
Ceremonial Chairman	Jim Riley	289-8030
Charity Chairman	Brian Hartpence	967-8062
Degree Team Chairman	Tom Shaver	271-0229
Corp Comm Bfast	Tony Corrente	206-0775
Family Director	Mike Tanner	651-9555
Field Agent	Tom Shaver	271-0229
Food Chairman	Tony Corrente	206-0775
Free Throw, Soccer	Charles Proctor	984-6446
Golf Chairman	John Jennings	281-408-6443
Historian	Ed Zamana	293-6763
Keep Christ in Christmas	Jim Riley	289-8030
Medical Equipment	Mike Wadsworth	224-6490
Membership Director	Jim Sierra	604-7647
Memorial Chairman	Tom Berdis	224-2906
Newsletter Editor	Tom Berdis	224-2906
PC Chairman	Carlos Ayunta	407-508-0071
Retention Chairman	Rod Mullen	324-6850
Scholarship Chairman	Jim Borkowski	602-6651
Special Olympics	Mike Lopez	258-2128
Spelling Bee	Charles Proctor	984-6446
Stamps Chairman	Jim Riley	289-8030
Tootsie Roll	Ray Taylor	604-7068
Youth Director	Mike Tanner	651-9555

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Past President	Joanne Barczynski 292-9796
Secretary	Klendy Molteni
Financial Sec	Sylvia Moulton
Treasurer	Sue Running
Sentinel	Lina Martin

Newsletter Contributions

Articles due by the 20th Contact

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