



The Mace

St. Francis of Assisi Council 4981
Knights of Columbus
Cupertino • San Jose • Saratoga, CA

Issue 661 • February 2024
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

Council Bus. Mtg. Feb 6, 7:30 p.m.
(At St. Joseph of Cupertino)
Ash Wednesday Feb 14
Council Bus. Mtg. March 5, 7:30 p.m.
(Location TBA)

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights:

February is quite full of events. We enter in the quiet of Ordinary time, observe Black History Month, celebrate the Lunar New Year, and then a rare combination of St. Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday and Lent giving us a conflict to navigate. It is best to celebrate with your sweetie on Mardi Gras! Purple Lent begins a period of introspection and prayer leading ultimately to Easter. Yet, we need to fit in Presidents' Day and our council meeting!

Our February council meeting will be in-person at St Joseph of Cupertino Parish in the Fr. Greg Kimm Community Center.

May our presence inspire participation in our K of C Council.

We will report on plans and actions for the Council and the Corporation as we navigate By-Laws, organization changes and operating procedures. Come prepared to discuss these issues.

At the January meeting, there was a winner of the attendance raffle. See details in this Mace edition. Who is the next winner? Come to the business meeting and find out. Socialize with your brothers and do the council's business. I look forward to seeing each of you.

Peace and Reflection,

Chaplain's Message

Context of Fasting

In its last study in 2018, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 17 percent of Americans were on diets, up from 14 percent a decade earlier. For Catholics, we are asked to fast only two out of 365 (or 366) days a year on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting in the Christian tradition is not about a diet. From the earliest days of the Church, fasting has been recognized as an important way to draw near to God, who alone can satisfy our hunger, and to share food with those who are hungry. That's why on Ash Wednesday, the Scripture reminds us to pray, to fast, and to give alms. Similarly, we are called to abstain from meat (or what we like) on Fridays during Lent to be in solidarity with the poor and to honor Christ who sacrificed his flesh, his life on a Friday. Simply put, we don't

just give up something during Lent, but fasting and abstinence in this season help us reflect on the suffering that Jesus embraced and many people today are going through, and our dependence on God.



Stations of the Cross

by Jim Schaaf†

Stations of the Cross, by some accounts, can be traced back to Jerusalem after the Ascension of our Lord when the Blessed Virgin Mary walked the path of Jesus each day that she remained in that city. It is a long-standing devotional in Catholic piety and has been particularly practiced during the season of Lent. Our parish, St. Joseph of Cupertino, has Stations of the Cross most Friday evenings during Lent. One of the prayers we use was composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori, an 18th century Doctor of the Church. When meditating on the Stations of the Cross using St. Alphonsus's prayers, I found myself forming a personal relationship with Jesus as we walked together on His Via Dolorosa.

St. Alphonsus's theme for each of the fourteen stations is that our sins are what caused Jesus to suffer. It was for us that he suffered and died. Each station's prayer usually ends with the admission that I am sorry for my past sins and the promise to not sin again (even though I know I am weak and will, unfortunately, sin again). If I try to not sin, each sin not committed may relieve Jesus of some of His suffering and pain on that original Good Friday. This is the personal relationship – the acknowledgement that I caused Him, my Lord and God, incredible pain because of my sins.

On the First Station St. Alphonsus has us acknowledge that it was not Pilate that sentenced Jesus to death but rather my sins that did so. Again, I am sorry that I have offended You, and with Your help, never allow me to offend You again.

This theme is repeated over and over for most of the stations. For example, in the Second Station, Jesus takes up His cross. St. Alphonsus has us pray that Jesus give each of us the patience to carry our individual cross or crosses. This is an



offshoot of the Spiritual Work of Mercy – to bear wrongs patiently. The important thing is to keep following Jesus and try not to sin and offend Him again.

At the Third, Seventh and Ninth Stations, Jesus falls – one, two three times. We acknowledge that we are sorry that our sins made that cross so heavy that He could not hold it – even with the help of Simon of Cyrene.

When Jesus interacts with women – His Mother, Veronica, and the Women of Jerusalem – we see how important it is to give honor to his mother, to images of Jesus and to those who have true compassion for Him and follow His way.

The final stations of stripping of garments, nailing to the cross, the death, the taking down from the cross and the burial bring a dramatic climax to this sacramental. St. Alphonsus's theme is repeated over and over – it was my sins that did this; I repent; I have a firm resolve to sin no more.

The Stations of the Cross is a wonderful devotional to be prayed in community or in private in preparation for Good Friday and Easter. Done devoutly, it will help bring you into a more perfect personal relationship with Jesus.

Council Officers

Grand Knight

Ed Johnson
408-296-8146

Chaplain

Fr. Hao Dinh
408-725-3939

Deputy Grand Knight

open

Chancellor

Al Mellin
408-892-0732

Financial Secretary

Eliodoro "Bong" Batingana
408-332-0189

Treasurer

John Steffens
408-985-9079

Recorder

Joe Kenney
408-253-7016

Warden

open

Advocate

Ron Schoengold
408-309-9830

Inside Guard

open

Outside Guard

open

Trustees

1 yr — Patrick Kwok
408-320-2515
2 yr — John Pozniak
408-230-6006
3 yr — Mark Wright
408-203-0942

Lecturer

open

Insurance Field Agent

Joe Ayroso, Insurance Agent
510-403-1499

District Deputy

Lawrence DeSilva
650-400-3333

Epiphany Water

by Jim Schaaf†

Christmas 2019 found my wife Pat and I and our entire family gathered in Palm Desert, California. This was a unique, one-of-a-kind gathering celebrating the Nativity with everyone away from each of their homes. To attend Mass on Christmas we checked for local churches and Mass times. The local church chosen was Sacred Heart in Palm Desert. Most of the family went to a midmorning Mass but I waited until the early afternoon Mass because it was to be a sung High Mass – the Extraordinary form, pre-Vatican II Mass often called the Tridentine Mass.

Sacred Heart is a rather large church and was only about 1/3 to 1/2 full for this Mass. The music was very good. The Cantor was good. The choir was good. The Pastor who said Mass led the worship ceremony in an excellent and ever so pious manner.

During the announcements the Pastor said that on the Solemnity of the Epiphany on January 5, 2020 he would bless holy water using the old rite for blessing water on the Epiphany. He explained that the ceremony went something like this: the priest would bring out water and salt. The salt would not just be blessed but would actually be exorcised. This exorcism, he went on, was done to drive out any spiritual impurities, evils and demons that may be in that salt. Then the priest would add this spiritually pure salt to the water by dribbling it into the water in the shape of a cross. This was done by first adding the salt in a forward-and-back direction and then in a side-to-side direction. Now the water and spiritually pure salt were combined. The priest would then bless the salt and water

combination and the Epiphany water would be created.

All who wanted their own Epiphany water for use in their homes or other places were encouraged to bring their own water-filled vessels. The priest would add a pinch of exorcised salt to each vessel and bless it. As I planned to leave Palm Desert prior to the Epiphany I had to miss this ritual that the Pastor said hasn't been performed in that church for over 50 years.

But ... in 2005 Pat and I were in Salzburg, Austria on the Solemnity of the Epiphany and we went to St. Sebastian church to attend Mass. The parish was run by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, the order that exclusively says the Latin Tridentine Mass. We attended Mass and stayed for Vespers and then for the blessing of the Epiphany water.

A large cauldron of water was brought out in front of the altar rail. The priest then prayed over the salt which, as we later discovered, was an exorcism. Then he added the salt to the large cauldron by making a sign of the cross with the salt as he added it. After blessing the water and salt combination most people in the congregation came to the cauldron to fill their own bottles of this new Epiphany water.

It was quite an impressive liturgy and one which could be returning to those parishes that have the Extraordinary form of the Eucharistic Liturgy. As an aside, the use of salt as a purifier of water is biblical; it comes from 1 Kings, Chapter 2, where Elisha used salt to purify the water used by the city of Jericho.

Prayer Requests

The following Brother Knights, their families, and friends are remembered in the monthly prayer, held each month before the Council's Business Meeting.



If any member wishes to submit a name or remove a name from the list, please telephone or email Ron Schoengold at 408 309 9830, ron@egoldsolutions.com

Prayers

Brother Art Salazar
 Brother Ron Miller's wife, Shirley
 Brother Jim Mathews
 Brother John Lehane
 Brother Tony Seidl's wife Helen Seidl
 Brother Mark Wright's sister Anne
 Brother Rodger O'Brien
 Brother Harry Tibbetts
 Brother Jim Campbell
 Brother Peter Pozniak's wife, Patricia
 Brother Ron Schoengold's wife, Arline
 Brother Lawrence DeSilva's wife, Shieroma
 Brother John Steffens' mother-in-law Emma Firpo

Deceased

Brother Eli Thomas (03/02/2022)
 Brother Freddie Schwalbach (03/30/2022)
 Brother Robert Rolufs, PGK (06/26/2022)
 Brother Mark Wright's mother-in-law Yingio Leung (06/29/2022)
 Brother William Callen (08/29/2022)
 Brother Jim Campbell's father Bob Anselmo (12/2/2022)
 Brother Ted Wyess' wife Ann (01/11/2023)
 Brother Dominic Guido's wife Roca (03/11/2023)
 Brother Ted Wyess (03/19/2023)
 Brother John Steffens sister-in-law Mary Steffens (11/30/2023)
 Brother James Campbell (12/13/2023)

The Fruits of Faith

8/1/2023

In these difficult times in which Ukraine is at war, what is most important to you and the people you serve?

FATHER MYKOLA LESKIV: If we speak about spiritual matters, what seems the most important to me is prayer. With the Knights from my parish, we engage in intense prayer, particularly the rosary. I have heard many testimonies about the fruitfulness of such prayers. One of our soldiers, who died later in battle, said to us something very significant: “You pray here, but your prayers take effect there, on the frontline — and we feel your prayers and your support.” Prayer is indeed the greatest gift we can receive. We witnessed a lot of signs when we were in Kherson for instance: We were able to talk with the priests living there, and they told us how God works in their lives — how tangible is his presence, and clear are his words.

What is the main activity of your council right now?

FATHER MYKOLA: Our council concentrates on humanitarian aid. We distributed supplies in Kherson and more widely in the Kherson oblast in south Ukraine. For instance, in Lyubymivka we visited the residents and provided them with support from the Knights. We also distributed wheelchairs to nursing homes and to veterans in Chervonohrad and Leshkiv, north of Lviv. We want to help these people somehow. We also support refugees in Chervonohrad, to whom we distributed help from the Knights. We are trying to lessen the suffering of people who are going through the tragedy of war.

What is your priority in regard to your work with the Knights of Columbus?

FATHER MYKOLA: I think the priority is for brother Knights in our council to consolidate their calling as Knights. It’s very important to create a strong group of Catholic men who will feel truly responsible for their mission, who will bring not only humanitarian help, but also a witness of a normal Christian, Catholic life. This is the priority. If we achieve this, if we can create a council of men with unwavering faith and ready to put their faith into action, this will be our greatest success. Because then, all the rest will follow.

What changes do you see in the men who have joined the Knights of Columbus?

FATHER MYKOLA: I do see a change in them! Thank God I see it, and I’m very happy about that. When they took oath and wore baldrics, they became more responsible. Before, some of them came to Mass once every while, sometimes late. Now they come every week, and even before time, as they are part of the liturgical service. They help me whenever something is



Father Mykola Leskiv is pictured May 26 during the Ukraine State Convention outside Lviv. (Photo by Andrey Gorb)

Father Mykola Leskiv is chaplain of St. Benedict of Nursia Council 18045, based at the Roman Catholic Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit in Chervonohrad, Ukraine. He helped to establish a Knights of Columbus council at the parish about two years ago, not long before Russia invaded the country.

needed in the parish and in the church. So I’m happy to see a lot of change — and it is good change.

How do you turn a parish into a Mercy Center? What do you need most, as a chaplain, other than food?

FATHER MYKOLA: First of all, we need equipment, generators, access to heat and light, and a safe place where people can feel secure, some kind of shelter. Apart from the material help, it would be useful for Knights to spend some time with the people who come here to get help and support. The Knights should be present, talk with them. Because we all need more than just material help, we need communication, conversation, community. The needs of the spirit are, I think, the most important and valuable.

How does the life of Blessed Michael McGivney inspire you?

FATHER MYKOLA: Father McGivney was incredible! His original idea is ever relevant, in all times. As priests and chaplains, we have this great role model on whom we can rely and whom we can follow. He managed to gather men, to mobilize them, whereas we got used to the fact that most active parishioners are women. And this fact, that he managed to motivate a group of men, is really incredible. We need to follow his path to gather people around us, spiritually, but also to create true communities.

(Continued on page 5)

Directors & Chairmen

Program Director

Ron Schoengold

Church Director

John Pozniak

Vocations	John Steffens
McGivney Shrine	Ron Schoengold
Bingo	open
Parish Round Tables	
Queen of Apostles	open
Sacred Heart in Saratoga	open
St. Joseph of Cupertino	Joe Kenney
Church of the Ascension	Ron Schoengold

Community Director

Culture of Life	Joe Kenney
Charities	Patrick Kwok
Divine Mercy	
& Rosary Visitation	John Steffens
Food for Families	Dick Sherman
People with	
Intellectual Disabilities	open
Mass of Reparation	open
Community Projects	Round Table Members
Breakfast Supreme	Ron Schoengold

Council Director

open

Fraternal Affairs	Ron Schoengold
First Degree Team	John Pozniak
Public Relations	Ron Schoengold
Website	Ron Schoengold
Communications	Ron Schoengold
Past Grand Knights Dinner	open
Special Appreciation Night	open
Building Manager	Ron Schoengold
McGivney Pilgrimage	John Pozniak

Family Director

Ed Johnson

Leisure Nights	open
Memorial Mass	open
Ladies Night	John Steffens
Ice Cream Social	Grand Knight Elect
Christmas Dinner	Ron Schoengold
Annual Picnic	open

Youth Director

open

Scholarship Program	open
Altar Servers Appreciation	open
Free Throw Contest	Ed Johnson
Essay Contest	Ed Johnson

Membership & Retention

Mark Wright*

John Pozniak

(Continued from page 4)

Were you the one to inspire the creation of your council?

FATHER MYKOLA: Our council is quite young — we started it about two years ago, before the outbreak of the war. I wanted a council for a very long time, but the men in my parish took some time to mature and get to the idea by themselves. They initiated it, this is their work. But it was a longtime dream of mine.

How did you support the Knights in their formation?

FATHER MYKOLA: At the beginning, I mostly prepared my council members by telling them about the community of the Knights of Columbus. We also attended several meetings with the Knights. I wanted them to get to know

each other, to see by themselves what wonderful work was done by the Knights. Then we invited Knights to come to our parish, and it all started.

How do you understand the mission of the Knights of Columbus — to practice faith through actions?

FATHER MYKOLA: The Bible says that faith without deeds is dead, and that is why when you love someone, you do everything you can to show him that love. When we believe and we deepen our faith, as we grow closer to God, it is just as impossible to not do something good. You bear the fruits of your heart. This is why you need to work on your faith, to deepen it: so that it bears fruit, so that it shows in your actions.



Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
 Where there is injury, pardon.
 Where there is discord, unity.
 Where there is doubt, faith.
 Where there is error, truth.
 Where there is despair, hope.
 Where there is darkness, light.
 Where there is sadness, joy.

Oh Divine Master,
 grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled, as to console;
 to be understood, as to understand;
 to be loved, as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 it is in dying that we are born
 to Eternal Life.



Treasurer's Report

Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	3,119.07
Council Savings	<u>15,801.01</u>
	<u>19,179.28</u>

Income for January 2024

Interest on Capital One Savings	\$ 1.34
	\$ 1.34

Expenses for January 2024

Computer & Web Expenses	\$ 10.00
MACE Printing	<u>130.45</u>
	<u>\$ 140.45</u>



Monthly Attendance Raffle

The winner of the January drawing was Dick Sherman who was present to claim the prize. Dick will use the proceeds to sponsor an upcoming dinner for the council officers and guests. The February drawing will be \$10. This month we meet at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, Fr. Greg Kimm Community Center, 7:30 pm.

The winner must be present at the meeting to win!



Happy Birthday!

Ronald Schoengold
Brett Mc Bride
Rev Gregory Kimm
David Williams

May your life be long and joyfull!

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
4	5	6 7:30pm Council Business Meeting (St. Joseph of Cupertino, Fr. Greg Kimm Community Center)	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
3	4	5 7:30pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting Location TBA)	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	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

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