



The Mace

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

Issue 673 • February 2025
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

Council Bus. Mtg. Feb. 4, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph of Cupertino, Fr. Kimm Cntr.
Council Bus. Mtg. March, 4, 7:00 p.m.
Queen of the Apostles

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

Ah February, hopefully a cold and wet month after a dry January. Days to celebrate include Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, Lunar New Year, and Presidents' Day. Much easier than 2024! Lent starts in early March.

Our February council meeting will be in-person at St Joseph of Cupertino Parish in the well-lit, Fr. Greg Ng Kimm Community Center. We need to discuss recruitment and retention so we can maintain and enrich our membership. Perhaps there will be an update from the IRS on our corporation's 501c(3) application. Join your brother Knights for a mix of business and pleasure.

Have you thought about what officer position suits you for the coming year? As Grand Knight for five years, it is time to recycle me.

Come to the meeting, attend to business, enjoy each other's company, and wear your good luck socks as you may be the winner of the attendance raffle. Odds are in your favor, much better than any lottery. I look forward to seeing you all.

Faith and Reflection,

Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Month of the Holy Family

February is a month dedicated to the Holy Family. Pope Francis said, "Do you know why the Family of Nazareth is a model? Because it is a family that converses, that talks. Dialogue is the most important element for a family! A family that does not communicate cannot be a happy family." The Pope noted that Mary and Joseph "did not grasp what [Jesus] told them" when he stayed behind in the Jerusalem Temple, highlighting that "in a family, listening is more vital than understanding." Pope Francis underscored the need for all family members to speak openly with one another and listen. "Never remain closed in on yourself or, even worse," Pope Francis admonished, "with your head turned to your mobile phone." "Talk, listen to each other," he insisted, saying, "This is the dialogue that is good for you and that makes you grow!"

In his exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" on the pastoral care of families, Pope Francis wrote this prayer to the Holy Family:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan."

Fr. Hao



United in the Sacred Heart

The Order launches its new Pilgrim Icon Program with a Sacred Heart Holy Hour at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn.



Iaian Blamey (left), manager of life and faith programs for the Knights of Columbus, and Grand Knight Drew Dillingham of San Salvador Council 1 in New Haven, Conn., process with the Sacred Heart pilgrim icon during a Mass and Holy Hour at St. Mary's Church on Jan. 3. (Photo by Paul Haring)

The Knights of Columbus launched its new Pilgrim Icon Program centered on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a Holy Hour on the first Friday of January — the day dedicated to the Sacred Heart each month — at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, the birthplace of the Order.

During the Jan. 3 event, which was organized by San Salvador Council 1, the official program icon was displayed, depicting Italian artist Pompeo Batoni's famous 1767 image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is now located in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. This reproduction of the image is one of more than 300 icons, each bearing the apostolic blessing of Pope Francis, traveling around the world as part of the Pilgrim Icon Program.

Before the Holy Hour, Father Ryan Lerner, pastor in solidum of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, celebrated a Mass for the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

"The name of Jesus casts out fear, anxiety and distress; reminds us of our need for a Savior; instills trust, brings peace, and unites our hearts more closely to his Most Sacred Heart," Father Lerner said in his homily. "Through the Holy Name of Jesus, may we be drawn ever closer to him, allowing his name to purify and strengthen us on our pilgrim way."

After Mass, Father Lerner led a Eucharistic Holy Hour that followed the Order's newly published Sacred Heart Holy Hour booklet, which contains readings from Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis' new encyclical devoted to the Sacred Heart, *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us). The prayer service also included the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and time for silent prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

The pope's encyclical and the Knights' new Pilgrim Icon Program both coincide with the 350th anniversary of the visions of the Sacred Heart received by the French nun St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who first promoted the First Friday devotion and reported the 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart tied to the devotion.

"In many ways, *Dilexit Nos* can serve as a mission statement for the Knights of Columbus in today's world," Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly wrote in his introduction to the holy hour booklet. "The pope observes that we live in a fragmented and divided society, but the heart of Christ is a unifying center. It is the source of truth and goodness that we all need."

(Continued on page 4)

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Dick Sherman
408-444-3725

Chancellor

Steven Schauer
408-931-4756

Financial Secretary

Ron Schoengold
408-309-9830

Treasurer

John Steffens
408-985-9079

Recorder

Joe Kenney
408-253-7016

Warden

Open

Advocate

John Ruzzo
408-417-9089

Inside Guard

Open

Outside Guard

Open

Trustees

1 yr — Patrick Kwok
408-896-1462

2 yr — John Pozniak
408-230-6006

3 yr — Mark Wright
408-203-0942

Lecturer

Open

Insurance Field Agent

Fernando Motas, Insurance Agent
510-404-8080

District Deputy

Lawrence DeSilva
650-400-3333

Prayer Requests

February 2025

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, FS, at 408 309 9830,



Brother Edward Shiras (04/02/2021)
 Brother Philip Young (03/01/2016)
 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)
 Brother Joseph Kenney's wife Sheila (02/18/2024)
 Brother Tony Seidl's wife Helen Rose (08/21/2024)
 Brother John Lehane, PGK (09/14/2024)
 Brother John Steffens' mother-in-law Emma Firpo (11/8/2024)
 Brother Rodger O'Brien (12/24/2024)

Prayers

- Brother Art Salazar
- Brother Ron Miller's wife, Shirley
- Brother Jim Mathews
- Brother Mark Wright's sister Anne
- Brother Rodger O'Brien
- Brother Harry Tibbetts
- Brother Peter Pozniah's wife, Patricia
- Brother Ron Schoengold's wife. Arline

Deceased

- Brother William Callen (08/29/2022)
- Brother Ernest Camacho (01/04/2016)
- Brother Philip Dean (12/26/2007)
- Brother Joseph Denham Jr. (11/19/2014)
- Brother Joseph Fitzsimmons (03/28/2017)
- Brother Francis Hopkins (12/06/2018)
- Brother Eugene Levitre (05/02/2024)
- Brother Robert Lewis (08/08/2016)
- Brother Robert MacKinnon (05/05/2024)
- Brother John Marvin (05/06/2020)
- Brother Larry Sandstrom (03/28/2021)



Birthdays of the Month

- Ron Schoengold
- Brett Mc Bride
- Rev Gregory Kimm
- David Williams

Monthly Attendance Raffle

February 2025

Cyril Melendez won the January raffle of \$20 but was not present to claim the prize. The February 2025 raffle is worth \$30. **The winner must be present at the meeting to win!**



Treasurer's Report January 2025

Balances as of 1/31/2025	
Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	5,154.87
Council Savings	20,234.29
	<u>\$26,234.29</u>
Income for January 2025	
Interest on Capital One Savings	\$ 1.77
	<u>\$ 1.77</u>
Expenses for January 2025	
MACE Printing	\$ 107.20
Membership Expenses	32.32
Supreme Catholic Advertising	44.00
Supreme Per Capita	<u>35.45</u>
Vocations	<u>2,000.00</u>
	<u>\$2,218.97</u>

(Sacred Heart — Continued from page 2)



Father Ryan Lerner, pastor in solidum of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish in New Haven, Conn., celebrates Mass before the Knights' Sacred Heart Holy Hour at St. Mary's Church. (Photo by Paul Haring)

On Dec. 20, 2024, Pope Francis received Supreme Knight Kelly in a private audience at the Vatican where the supreme knight presented the pope with an icon and booklet for the Sacred Heart prayer service. He also provided the Holy Father with an update on notable activities of the Knights of Columbus in the past year, including the growth of the Cor men's faith formation

initiative, charitable work around the world, and support for vocations in the United States and Canada.

For more than 45 years, the Order's Pilgrim Icon Program has given more than 23 million people opportunities to honor Jesus, the Blessed Mother and the saints through 191,000 prayer services featuring icons of different subjects, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Holy Family and St. Joseph. The Sacred Heart icon is the 20th image venerated through the program since 1979.

Supreme Knight Kelly has also encouraged families to enthrone images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their homes in response to Jesus' promise to St. Margaret Mary to "bless every place in which an image of my heart is exposed and honored."

"As my brother Knights of Columbus bring reproductions of this beloved image to parishes around the world, I hope that they will invite their families — and all families — to consecrate their homes and themselves to the Sacred Heart," said the supreme knight. "In the heart of Christ, we see the heart of the Father. And we ask Our Lord to help us make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us."

He Loved Us First

A renewal of devotion to the Sacred Heart helps us grasp God's unfailing love for us and our own identity in Christ

By Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly 1/1/2025



Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly *(Photo by Michael Collopy)*

Starting in January, the Knights of Columbus will begin its newest Pilgrim Icon Program, featuring the most famous depiction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni, the original image is now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. In the painting, inspired by the mystical visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus holds out his heart, which is enflamed with love and surrounded by a crown of thorns. Framed copies of this image, each bearing the apostolic blessing of Pope Francis, will travel

between councils and parishes in every jurisdiction of the Order.

One might be tempted to think of devotion to the Sacred Heart as outdated or perhaps overly sentimental, but nothing could be further from the truth. It is, rather, as relevant as ever in its focus on the timeless and bold promise that God has made to us. That promise is his limitless love for us — a love that brings us new life and eternal salvation through the life, death and resurrection of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Christ meets us in our human weakness, and his Sacred Heart touches and brings unity to our own hearts, which are wounded and often broken.

True devotion to the Sacred Heart comes only after first grasping God's profound love for us — and that is what the image is all about. The First Letter of John puts it this way: "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he

(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

Patrick Kwok

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

Patrick Kwok

Altar Servers Appreciation

Patrick Kwok

Free Throw Contest

Ed Johnson

Essay Contest

Ed Johnson

Membership & Retention

Mark Wright*

John Pozniak

(He Loved Us First — Continued from page 4)

loved us and sent his Son as an expiation for our sins. ... We love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:10,19). Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is our loving response to the fact that God has loved us first. It is the story of a God who is so devoted to us that he will not — cannot — give up on us.

This past October, Pope Francis issued his fourth encyclical, *Dilexit Nos (He Loved Us)*, which focuses on the human and divine love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In this beautiful document, the pope makes a plea for us to return to the heart — to rediscover our own heart, our own center, by returning to the heart of Jesus Christ. Christ poured out his blood *for us*, and our hearts find wholeness when they are united with his.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is needed, the Holy Father writes, because contemporary society is "dominated by the hectic pace and bombarded by technology." The result is that we are at risk of losing our very selves because we are losing the ability to "engage in the processes that an interior life by its very nature requires" (*Dilexit Nos*, 9). We must return to the heart of Jesus, the pope tells us, for it is the "unifying principle of all reality" (31).

Christ meets us in our human weakness, and his Sacred Heart touches and brings unity to our own hearts, which are wounded and often broken.



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.

February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
2	3	4 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church)	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1

March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1
2	3	4 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Queen of Apostles Church)	5	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

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

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