



The Mace

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

Issue 680 • September 2025
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

- Council Bus. Mtg. Sept. 2, 7:00 p.m.
Church of Ascension, Worner Hall
- Council Bus. Mtg. Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph of Cupertino

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

September arrives with possibly warmer days and the return of football season. This is a time to re-focus on the work ahead, Serious September as I call it. Let us enjoy the last days of summer and the beginning of autumn with the best weather of the year (our secret).

Our council had an enjoyable Bocce afternoon in August at Blackberry Farm Park. Games were played with enthusiasm as each ball was tossed, hoping for a better position. Everyone got some exercise, including the long walk to the Bocce courts. We shared food and conversation together.

Our council meeting on September 2nd will be at Ascension Parish in Saratoga. We will use the Worner Hall lounge

meeting room. Installation of Officers will be scheduled. Inside and Outside Guards and Lector positions are available.

The St. Joseph of Cupertino Feast Day Celebration is on Sunday, 21 September. This is an opportunity for our Knights to support the parish with food and service. The event begins following the 11 am Mass.

Did you hear that rattle? It must be the attendance raffle box being shaken. Whose number will be picked? It could be yours. Come to the meeting and celebrate the winner. Enjoy time spent with your brother knights.

Love and Kindness,
Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This year, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross falls on a Sunday, September 14. It commemorates the discovery of Christ's true cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, during her pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326.

According to tradition, at the site believed to be the tomb of Our Savior, workers found three crosses. The cross on which Jesus was crucified was recognized when it healed a dying woman upon touch. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built at this site, and the cross quickly became a revered object.

A 5th-century record describes the reverence shown to the true cross

during a Good Friday service in Jerusalem, stating, "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

The act of venerating the holy cross does not imply that we worship a piece of wood, but rather what it represents. By kneeling before the cross and kissing it, we honor Our Lord's cross as the instrument of our salvation.

For Jubilee 2025, the main holy sites in the Holy Land include the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Fr. Hao



Knights of Columbus 143rd Supreme Convention

Washington, D.C., August 5 to 7, 2025

Heralds of Hope — Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly

Your Eminences, Your Excellencies, my brother Knights and families: Welcome to our Supreme Convention!

It's good to be back in Washington, D.C. Our history in this city stretches back nearly to our founding. Our first council was established here in 1897 — and ever since, we have served both God and country.

I think of our long-running partnership with The Catholic University of America. I think of how we helped construct the bell tower of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I think of our strong support for the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. And in a special way, I think of our landmark pastoral initiative in our nation's capital — the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. In this city, we have worked hard to serve the Church and strengthen the faith.

We've also put our faith into action, as Catholic citizens. Here in Washington, we

have defended religious freedom for more than a century. We've marched for life for more than 50 years. And throughout our history, we have proudly stood with those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

When I was state deputy of the District of Columbia, I had a front row seat to so much of this work. And it gave me an even deeper appreciation for all our work, around the world. The Knights of Columbus does amazing things. And thanks to you, my brother Knights, last year was one of our best years yet. You helped us advance in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. And you gave witness to the hope that comes from Jesus Christ.

This is our mission — to be heralds of hope. To give hope to others through our service and sacrifice. We lift up the family and the faith. We lift up the vulnerable and the persecuted. And today, in a special way, we lift up our voices in thanksgiving. Our Lord has given us a new Holy Father to shepherd his Church. And the Knights of Columbus is proud to stand with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV! 2025.

Council Officers

Grand Knight

Ed Johnson
408-296-8146

Chaplain

Fr. Hao Dinh
408-725-3939

Deputy Grand Knight

Dick Sherman
408-444-3725

Chancellor

Donald Goers
630-329-9765

Financial Secretary

Ron Schoengold
408-309-9830

Treasurer

John Steffens
408-985-9079

Recorder

Mark Wright
408-203-0942

Warden

Thomas Gaynor
408-839-3473

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 — Joseph Kenney
408-823-4162

Lecturer

Open

Insurance Field Agent

Fernando Motas, Insurance Agent
510-404-8080

District Deputy

Toby Laufer
408-455-7321



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is pictured in Washington, D.C., in May 2025. A U.S. flag drapes the Knights Tower and Vatican colors adorn the entrance

Mourning the Death of His Holiness Pope Francis

WHEREAS, during the twelve years of his pontificate, as the first pontiff from the Americas, Pope Francis exercised his Petrine ministry with an admirable emphasis on serving those at the peripheries through his travels, writings, addresses and homilies, while stressing the foundational Christian virtues of charity and fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis called Catholics to become “missionary disciples” actively engaged in evangelization by sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ and communicating the message of Jesus at all times (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 120); and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis stressed the integral nature of faith that includes respect for creation, reverence for all human life, rejection of a “throwaway culture” and the importance of “fraternity and social friendship” that recognizes the inherent dignity of every human person; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis was a tireless advocate for peace among nations and within nations, seeking to fulfill his role as *Pontifex Maximus* (“chief bridge builder”) and exhorting all peoples to live as brothers and sisters who are created in the image of God; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis served as a unifying figure of prayer and enduring hope in God’s providence during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly through the extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing and meditation, viewed remotely by millions worldwide, during which he stood in an empty, rain-swept St. Peter’s Square before the Miraculous Crucifix from the Church of St. Marcellus in Rome, and invoked the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary before the venerable image of *Salus Populi Romani*; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis stood in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, offering aid and consolation and solemnly consecrating Russia, Ukraine and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis inspired and strengthened the faith of countless Knights and their families during his pastoral visits to the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Cuba, Poland, Lithuania, the Republic of Korea and France — nearly every nation in which the Order is established; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis raised to the honors of the altar the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney, approving a miracle attributed to his intercession and issuing the Apostolic Letter for his beatification ceremony on October 31, 2020, which recognized that Blessed Michael McGivney’s “zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters, made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance”; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis received in private audience with great kindness Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, as well as the members of the Board of Directors and their wives, and through messages to the annual Supreme Convention encouraged the entire Order in its mission of charity, unity and fraternity throughout the world; and

(Continued on page 4)

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, FS, at 408-309-9830, ron@egoldsolutions.com



Prayers

Brother Art Salazar
 Brother Ron Miller’s wife, Shirley
 Brother Jim Mathews
 Brother Mark Wright’s sister Anne
 Brother Harry Tibbetts
 Brother Peter Pozniak’s wife, Patricia
 Brother Ron Schoengold’s wife, Arline
 Brother Tom Lewis

Deceased

Brother William Callen (08/29/2022)
 Brother Eugene Levitre (05/02/2024)
 Brother Robert MacKinnon (05/05/2024)
 Brother Patrick’s wife Susan (04/28/2020)
 Brother John Marvin (05/06/2020)
 Brother Larry Sandstrom (03/28/2021)
 Brother Edward Shiras (04/02/2021)
 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)
 Raymond Mark Gallant (04/10/2025)

(Continued from page 3)

WHEREAS, Pope Francis repeatedly commended the Knights of Columbus to St. Joseph as an “admirable model of those manly virtues of quiet strength, integrity and fidelity which the Knights of Columbus are committed to preserving, cultivating and passing on to future generations of Catholic men,” and during the Year of St. Joseph, which he proclaimed for the entire Church, the Holy Father blessed an icon of St. Joseph chosen by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly as his first subject for the Order’s pilgrim icon program, reflecting the consecration of his leadership of the Order to St. Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis issued an encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Dilexit nos* (“He Loves Us”) in October 2024, which providentially coincided with the pilgrim icon program of the Knights of Columbus that has brought images of the Sacred Heart to councils throughout the Order for public prayer and devotion, and in which encyclical the Pope repeatedly mentions charity, unity and fraternity as key aspects of the Sacred Heart that Jesus offers to humanity; and

WHEREAS, in the days before he peacefully returned to the house of the Father on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, Pope Francis offered his illness and suffering to God during his prolonged hospitalization, and showed the qualities of a loving father after returning to his Vatican residence, offering the traditional Easter Sunday “Urbi et Orbi” blessing from the loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica, and making a surprise final ride in the Popemobile around St. Peter’s Square, where he greeted many of the thousands gathered to see him.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, on behalf of the more than 2.1 million members worldwide and their families, expresses grief and sorrow over the death of His Holiness Pope Francis; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Order, following the exhortations and selfless example of Pope Francis, will continue to reach out to the peripheries to serve the neediest among us; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Order will continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, entrusting him to the intercession of Our Lady, St. Joseph and the most merciful Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Patrick Sheehy

Francis Kurupacheril

Donald Sifferman

Monthly Attendance Raffle

Godfrey Mungal won the August raffle of \$30 but was not present to receive the prize. The September 2025 raffle is worth \$40. **The winner must be present at the meeting to win!**



Treasurer’s Report

Balances as of 8/31/2025

Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 992.61
Council Savings	\$20,832.32
	\$20,832.32

Income for August

Dues	\$240.00
Interest on Capital One Savings	\$ 1.77
Pancake Breakfast-St. Joseph	\$ 7.00
	\$248.77

Expenses for August

MACE Printing	\$ 127.20
Supreme Catholic Advertising	\$ 39.50
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$150.00

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

New Supreme Officers Installed



Supreme Secretary John Marrella (left) and Supreme Advocate Anthony Picarello (right) stand with Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori after being installed to their new offices during a ceremony at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 1. The ceremony followed a Mass celebrated by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, ahead of the 143rd Supreme Convention this week. (Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)



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.

September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1	2 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Ascension, Wornier Hall)	3	4	5	6
7 12:00pm Ascension Parish Picnic (Parish Grounds)	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 11:00am St. Joseph of Cupertino Feast Day (Celebration)	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4

October 2025

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

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