



The Mace

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

Issue 684 • January 2026
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

Council Bus. Mtg. January 6, 7:00 p.m.
Ascension, Worner Hall Lounge

Council Bus. Mtg. February 3, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph of Cupertino, Fr. Greg Kimm
Community Center

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

I do hope that everyone enjoyed Christmas and New Year celebrations, plus time with family and friends. The Epiphany will bring the Christmas season to a close. Days are gradually getting longer by about a minute a day. This is the time when football becomes the focus for many of us.

There was a suggestion to have another social event, possibly on Valentine's Day, a Saturday just before Lent begins on 18 February. Let us all discuss the possibilities and plan the event at the business meeting.

The January 6th business meeting will be at The Church of the Ascension Parish in the Worner Hall lounge room. We will begin by reciting the rosary at 7pm.

Inside and Outside Guards and Lector positions are still available. The meeting will also be available on Zoom. Look for the meeting link by email.

I welcome you all to the meeting, whether it be in person or remote. Let's share some social time, review the reports and plan our activities. Attendance has been light recently, so do make an effort to join your brothers. I'll be listening for the rattle of the attendance raffle box as the meeting ends. Who will win? Come and find out, then celebrate their good luck. See you there!

Peace and Respect,
Ed Johnson, Grand Knight

Chaplain's Message

The Word of God and Days of Our Lives

The scripture readings for the Christmas Mass during the day highlight the Word of God who "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). God reveals who he is through creation, the events in our world, the prophets, and ultimately through his Son, the eternal Word made flesh.

During his public ministry, Jesus attracts large crowds through his preaching and actions. His words, deeds, and his very being reveal God to those around him. Those who saw him, saw the Father (John 14:9).

In today's world, the word of God still influences those willing to accept it. Many individuals share how verses or narratives from the Scriptures helped them navigate difficulties such as sickness, grief, or difficult choices. The divine word is truly a living, active force that connects with human experiences, providing divine insight and strength for everyday life.

During January, Pope Leo calls on us to "pray that our prayers with the Word of God become nourishment for our lives and a source of hope within our communities, helping us to foster a more fraternal and missionary Church."



Looking Back at 2025

With hearts full of gratitude, Knights look back on the Jubilee Year, reflecting on the Order's witness of faith and renewing their commitment to be signs of hope in the world. In his December column for Columbia, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori points to the source of this hope: "May the birth of Christ, the light of the world, bring hope in the midst of our fears, peace in the midst of our strife, and light in the midst of our darkness," he writes. "To Christ, indeed, belongs the future — a future full of hope — 'and hope does not disappoint' (Rom 5:5)."

Looking Back on a Year of Faith in Action

In 2025, the Knights of Columbus brought hope to people in need, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood across communities and continents. From rallying after the devastating Los Angeles wildfires, to launching the Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icon Program, to celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree, the Order stood firm in faith and answered the call to charity.

An Exceptional Supreme Convention

The 143rd Supreme Convention in Washington, D.C., celebrated the Knights' mission to be "Heralds of Hope" in a world in need of unity and renewal. A historic greeting from Pope Leo XIV set the tone for

an inspiring gathering that included recognition of the International Family of the Year, the presentation of the Gaudium et Spes Award, and record-breaking charitable outreach — \$197 million in donations and 48 million hours of service.

The 'Kindly Light' of Catholic Education

In his recent apostolic letter *Drawing New Maps of Hope*, Pope Leo XIV draws on the wisdom of St. John Henry Newman to identify strategies for Catholic education in a rapidly evolving digital culture. Guided by Newman's conviction that the faith is the foundation of all true knowledge, the Holy Father emphasizes that Catholic education must become "not a nostalgic refuge, but a laboratory of discernment, pedagogical innovation and prophetic witness" (11.1).

Beyond Fear

Christmas is the perfect time to gather the fears and anxieties of the past year and entrust them to the Savior of the world, writes Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori in his recent Columbia column. "Like the shepherds, we can be filled by the Holy Spirit with a holy fear — with wonder and awe at the greatness and glory of our God and of his only-begotten Son," he writes. "Such fear is akin to love. It is wonderment at the depth of God's care for us."



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408-444-3725

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630-329-9765

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Ron Schoengold
408-309-9830

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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

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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



Monthly Attendance Raffle

David Adams won the November raffle of \$70 but was not present to receive the prize. The January 2026 raffle is worth **\$80. The winner must be present at the meeting to win!**



Terrence Maguire	Alvin Mellin
Peter De Kruif	Mark Walljasper
Rev Alan Arnone	Joseph Kenney
Edgar Manalo	Donald Goers

Prayer Requests

The following Brother Knights, their families, and friends are remembered in the monthly Rosary 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 Peter Pozniak
 Brother Ron Schoengold's wife, Arline
 Brother Tom Lewis
 Brother Fernando Motas' mother, Concepcion

Deceased

Brother Eugene Levitre (05/02/2024)
 Brother Robert MacKinnon (05/05/2024)
 Brother Patrick's wife, Susan (04/28/2020)
 Brother Robert Rolufs, PGK (06/26/2022)
 Brother Mark Wright's mother-in-law Yingio Leung (06/29/2022)
 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)
 Brother Raymond Mark Gallant (04/10/2025)
 Brother Albert Pina (11/26/2025)

‘Witnesses of God’s Tenderness’

Christ’s humble birth in Bethlehem draws our attention to those most in need of love

By Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly 12/1/2025



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

As we approach Christmas, my thoughts naturally turn to my visit to the Holy Land this fall with our supreme chaplain, Archbishop William Lori, and Supreme Secretary John Marrella. We were joined by Msgr. Peter Vaccari, president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association—Pontifical Mission. During this Jubilee Year of Hope, our purpose was to bring a message of hope and solidarity to those suffering Christian communities deeply impacted by the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank.

One of our most memorable stops was the Holy Family Children’s Home in Bethlehem. Operated by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the home provides a loving atmosphere for about 50 abandoned children. These children come from a variety of difficult circumstances. Some are newborns dropped off anonymously on the doorstep. Others have parents who are unable to care for them. Still others are victims of abuse and have been placed in the home by local authorities. Regardless of their background, the sisters provide what the children need the most: the healing that comes from a loving home and a genuine sense of belonging.

The sisters’ work is difficult. I could see it on their faces. No one is poorer or more vulnerable than an abandoned child — especially in a land torn apart by social and political conflict. Yet the sisters give the children a new life and the sense of security every child needs. And perhaps for the first time in their lives, the children have hope. This was

evident to me in the joyful sounds of laughter and play echoing through the courtyard.

This is the heart of what it means to be a Knight of Columbus — to be attentive to the needs of others and never closed in on ourselves.

In his homily during Mass for the Jubilee of the Poor last month, Pope Leo reflected on the many forms of poverty that plague our world — material, moral and spiritual. He observed that they all share a common thread, a tragedy that cuts through all of them — the experience of loneliness. To break down the “walls of loneliness,” the Holy Father said, we must foster a “culture of attention.” That is, we must “be attentive to others, to each person, wherever we are, wherever we live, transmitting this attitude within our families, living it out in the workplace ... in different communities, in the digital world, everywhere, reaching out to the marginalized and becoming the witnesses of God’s tenderness.”

This is the heart of what it means to be a Knight of Columbus — to be attentive to the needs of others and never closed in on ourselves. The Order was founded precisely to look outward — to care for widows, orphans, the vulnerable and the marginalized. Just as God does not abandon us in our hardships, we must never abandon others in theirs. Christ implores us: “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 15:12).

As we journey through the Advent season and draw closer to Christmas and the conclusion of this great Jubilee Year of Hope, let us remember that Jesus Christ himself is the true author of our hope. He can break down the walls of our loneliness and give us the grace to be attentive to the real needs of others. He does not abandon us. He came as one of us to save us — poor and vulnerable, born in a Bethlehem manger in a time of great turmoil.

St. Paul writes, “For your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Cor 8:9). Christ came to offer us a new way — the Good News, which has the power to heal us and free us from the power of sin and death. May we open our hearts wide to the riches of his grace, attentive to ways we can generously share this wealth with our neighbors in need.

Vivat Jesus!

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



Treasurer's Report

Balances as of 12/31/2025	
Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 2,824.19
Council Savings	\$ 15,838.42
TOTAL	\$ 18,921.81
Income	
Interest Capital One Savings	\$ 1.35
Dues	\$ 60.00
TOTAL	\$ 61.35
Expenses	
MACE Printing	\$ 107.20
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 150.00
TOTAL	\$ 257.20



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.

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 26 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Ascension, Worner Hall Lounge)	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

February 2026

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

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