



The Mace

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

Issue 685 • February 2026
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

- Council Bus. Mtg. Feb. 3, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph of Cupertino, Fr. Greg Kimm Center
- Ash Wednesday Feb. 18
Council Bus. Mtg. March 3, 7:00 p.m.
Queen of Apostles Church
- Palm Sunday March 29

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

Welcome to February, the shortest month of the year! We are also in the shortest Ordinary Time between Christmas and Lent. This time may be shorter but still packed with events, including the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and the Lunar New Year celebration. Choose what you like and enjoy with family and friends. Watch the Mace and council calendar for a social event that may involve sweets of more than one kind. Remember that Mardi Gras is coming, so we need to party more before Ash Wednesday. The February 3rd business meeting will be at St Joseph of Cupertino Parish in the Rev. Greg Kimm

Community Center. We will begin by reciting the rosary at 7 pm. Inside and Outside Guards positions are still available. The meeting will also be available on Zoom. Look for the meeting link by email. Will we see you at the meeting? Do come and share your thoughts and time with your brothers. Join the Zoom session if that is better for you. Participation keeps the council alive. Those who attend are eligible for the raffle draw at the end of the meeting. The winner could be you! Come and find out, then celebrate their good luck. See you there!

Faith and Love

Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Season of Renewal and Joy

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner, taking place on February 18. Although Lent is often linked to the wilderness image, this season is truly a time filled with joy through deepened relationships. Through fasting, we contemplate on our hunger for God; through prayer, we deepen our relationship to God; through almsgiving, we are in solidarity with the hungry and the poor. Appropriately, the name Lent in English originates from an Old English term meaning spring, signifying renewal and growth through conversion. Instead of concentrating only on what we give up, this season highlights renewal, promotes solidarity with those in need, and offers an opportunity to make space for God by removing distractions.

Orthodox Christians generally do not observe Ash Wednesday; instead, they begin the Great Fast (Lent) on Clean Monday. The equivalent, profoundly penitential spirit is expressed during Forgiveness Vespers on the Sunday preceding Lent, or through the recitation of the Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian to herald the beginning of the fasting period. An excerpt from St. Ephrem's prayer reads: "O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. Grant rather to me the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant."

Fr. Hao

Please welcome Brother Joseph Wescoat as the Lecturer of Council 4981

Time Flies

By Joseph Wescoat

Brothers,

Without doubt, we are busy and constantly on the run due to natural responsibilities of life and God. We often find ourselves running around and are so busy that we forget to think about what is truly important. Recently, I was given an opportunity to be reminded about what truly is important. This happened through a couple of the brother knights who took some time out of their busy schedules to meet with me. They explained to me about what the Knights were and the issues that the local parishes are facing. There are multiple variables that contribute to this problem, but the root of the problem happens to be the need for more help. Certainly, I do understand that many of us have tight schedules and are very busy, however that may not be true with the new generation. If we look at the latest article from the Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, it was found that most of the Gen Z men will spend about one to six

hours online daily, with a large majority devoted mostly to online scrolling and YouTube. This time in front of the screen instead of the altar has led to an increase in mental health issues and becoming more disconnected from society. In addition to this, there are many young people who do not know that the Knights of Columbus even exist due to having grown up in a life outside of the Catholic Church. Myself included, as I only became a Knight in 2023. As knights we can use our time more readily to make a more fulfilling life by showing what we do as knights in our church life and social life. We can use them as mentors and friends who can encourage the reconnection with God and communication. Yes, time is precious, it is a resource that should be used wisely, as it may only take a brief interaction on a Sunday to find a new brother. As Lent quickly approaches, I encourage all of us to think about how we act towards others, or how we can use some of our time to encourage family members or parish members to become part of the order.



Monthly Attendance Raffle

Cyril Millendez won the January \$80 raffle but was not present to receive the prize. **The February 2026 raffle is worth \$90. The winner must be present at the meeting to win!**

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

Joseph Wescoat

408-724-0797

Insurance Field Agent

Fernando Motas, Insurance Agent

510-404-8080

District Deputy

Toby Laufer

408-455-7321

'No Greater Love'

'No Greater Love'

A new memorial honors Kendrick Castillo, the high school student who gave his life to save classmates during a Colorado school shooting

By Barbara O'Neil

Dec. 4, 2025

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in [Denver Catholic](#), the magazine of the Archdiocese of Denver. It has been adapted and republished here with permission.

On a crisp Friday morning in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, a crowd of people — including numerous Knights of Columbus and their families — gathered at Civic Green Park to witness the unveiling of a newly installed memorial. It stands as a lasting tribute to Kendrick Castillo, the 18-year-old who died protecting his classmates during the 2019 shooting at the STEM School Highlands Ranch.

The 7-foot-tall monument bears images of a U.S. flag, Castillo sitting on his Jeep, a bald eagle, and a cross representing the young man's faith as the foundation of his heroism, which prevented any of his classmates from losing their lives in the shooting. The emblem of the Knights of Columbus adorns one of the stones at the foot of the memorial and honors Castillo's self-sacrifice. Unveiled on Nov. 14, the project was made possible through the generosity of community members who fully funded the \$30,000 memorial in just a few days.

For the Knights of Columbus, the memorial carries a special significance. Kendrick's father, John Castillo, is a member of Southwest Denver Council 4844, and Kendrick had planned to join the Knights after graduating high school. He was welcomed posthumously as a Knight of Columbus at the 137th Supreme Convention in 2019. That same year, Castillo's parents were also presented the Caritas Medal, the second-highest honor of the Order.

"The Castillo family is an important part of the Colorado Knights of Columbus," said Colorado State Deputy Marc Solome. "They're an important part of our history. We want to support not just Kendrick, but the entire Castillo family."

Knights from across Colorado — including Fort Collins, Castle Rock, Colorado Springs and Burlington — made the drive to Highlands Ranch for the Nov. 14 event to support and honor the Castillo family. Fourth Degree Knights presented an honor guard at the unveiling of the memorial. The presence of the

Knights was a testament to the community of faith that continues to stand with the family, said Solome.



Fourth Degree Knights from assemblies across Colorado present an honor guard at the unveiling of a memorial to Kendrick Castillo in Highlands Ranch. (Photo by Neil McDonough / Denver Catholic)

For many Catholics across Colorado, the monument marks more than just memory. It reflects a growing conviction that Castillo's life — defined by his deep faith and love for his friends — bears the unmistakable marks of heroic virtue. The Diocese of Colorado Springs announced in July that it had received a petition to open Castillo's cause for canonization.

Now, standing in a park where Castillo once played as a child, the community gathered once more to pray, honor his family and remember a young man that many regard as an incredible witness of Christ's love.

For John and Maria Castillo, the morning carried a mixture of grief, pride and gratitude. Yet when asked about what he hopes his son's example inspires in other young Catholics, John did not hesitate.

"I hope that Kendrick will especially touch our young people and bring them deeper into faith and become leaders in faith," John told Denver Catholic. "I hope he inspires them to get involved in their parishes, in their community, in the archdiocese. Pray the rosary, pray to end abortion and defend the sanctity of life. Those are the things that my wife and I hope people look to Kendrick for. I hope people ask Kendrick to pray for them."

For the Castillos, the news that the Diocese of Colorado Springs has begun reviewing the petition to open their son's

(Continued on page 4)

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cause for canonization has been overwhelming in the most unexpected way.

“We’re elated. We’re humbled. The mere words that even mention that are more important than anything we’ve experienced in this tragedy,” John said. “We’ve gotten a call from the president of the United States; we’ve met powerful people. But to see that our Catholic brothers and sisters are considering Kendrick is unbelievable. We thank God.”

District Attorney George Brauchler of Colorado’s 23rd Judicial District also spoke at the memorial, offering a perspective shaped by his years of familiarity with the case. He began by acknowledging the complicated reality of gathering for such an occasion marked by both grief and courage.



Father Gregory Bierbaum, pastor of St. Mark Parish in Highlands Ranch, Colo., and chaplain of St. Mark Highlands Ranch Council 1498, prays during the unveiling. (Photo by Neil McDonough / Denver Catholic)

“In a world less touched by evil, we probably wouldn’t be here,” Brauchler said. “But in a world less touched by good, we also wouldn’t be here. We’d be reflecting on the loss of 27 lives. Make no mistake, that was the goal of evil that day.”

Brauchler noted that Castillo’s instinct that day was not to run, but to act — a choice shaped by his faith, family and his moral compass.

“We would be cheating Kendrick and ourselves if we did not acknowledge the role that Jesus played in his life in making that decision that day,” Brauchler said. “In a split second, Kendrick lived out John 15:13: ‘Greater love has no man than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’”

Six years ago, a young man from Highlands Ranch lived those words literally. Now, his community gathered to reflect on the faith that formed him — and the possibility that the teenager who once prayed, served and studied among them might one day be recognized by the Church as a saint.

Prayer Requests and Deaths

The following Brother Knights, their families, and friends are remembered in the monthly Rosary prayer held each month before the Council 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)

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

<i>Open</i>	
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

<i>Ed Johnson</i>	
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

<i>Open</i>	
Scholarship Program	Patrick Kwok
Altar Servers Appreciation	Patrick Kwok
Free Throw Contest	Ed Johnson
Essay Contest	Ed Johnson

Membership & Retention

Mark Wright*
John Pozniak



Ron Schoengold
Brett Mc Bride

Rev Gregory Kimm
David Williams



Treasurer's Report

Balances as of	
Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 3,116.21
Council Savings	\$15,839.77
TOTAL	\$19,215.18
Income	
Interest Capital One Savings	\$ 1.35
Vocations	\$400.00
TOTAL	\$401.35
Expenses	
MACE Printing	\$107.98
TOTAL	\$107.98

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 2026

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

March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 1	2	3 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Queen of Apostles)	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
29 Palm Sunday	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

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Published monthly by
Saint Francis of Assisi Council 4981
Knights of Columbus
Serving Cupertino, San Jose & Saratoga California
District 34 — Division 4
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