



# The Mace

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

Issue 688 • May 2026  
District 34 • Division 4  
www.kofc4981.net

## Upcoming Events

- Council Bus. Mtg. May 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Church of the Ascension Worner Hall
- Council Bus. Mtg. June 2, 7:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph of Cupertino, Fr. Kimm Center

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## Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

Welcome to May! This month is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many events fill the month, starting with the May Crowning of Mary, then Star Wars Day, Cinco de Mayo (pass the nachos and beer), Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, Pentecost, and ending with Memorial Day. May is also dedicated to Older Americans (most of our KC brothers), National Nurses Month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. There is much to celebrate, so choose your favorites. Our May 5<sup>th</sup> (Cinco de Mayo) business meeting will be at Ascension Parish in the Worner Hall Lounge. We will begin by reciting the Rosary at 7 pm. The meeting will also be available on Zoom. Look for the meeting link by email. We need to select officers for the next Columbian year, so consider how you

can serve our council. Our Cupertino-Saratoga Columbian Corporation's charitable grant requests need to be reviewed and funds issued once approved. A pool of reviewers is needed to avoid conflicts of interest when requests come from our parishes and from any organizations with which members may be associated. A starting pool of members has been established, but more are needed. Let me know if you are interested.

Will you be at the meeting? You can join in person or virtually. Participate in decision-making for the good of the council. Those attending are eligible for the raffle at the meeting's close. Come and see who wins in May.

Peace and Respect,

*Ed Johnson, Grand Knight*

## Chaplain's Message

### That Everyone Might Have Food

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for this month is "That Everyone Might Have Food," highlighting the issue of global hunger amid food waste. He urges Catholics to pray for a culture of solidarity and a responsible lifestyle. The Pope emphasizes the need to transform selfish consumption into a culture of sharing and caring for the earth's gifts. Hunger has always existed, but it has become a more urgent issue. After the pandemic, global inflation, increasing energy costs, and supply chain issues have exacerbated the situation. Moreover, conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East are pushing global hunger to unprecedented heights. The UN World

Food Program warns that an additional 45 million people are at risk of severe food insecurity. Many individuals in North American communities are also struggling to feed their families, as reported by the Knights of Columbus. Their Food for Families initiative aims to minimize the number of people going to bed hungry. In his "Pray with the Pope" video released on April 30, the Holy Father laments that a lot of food is wasted at our tables. He prayed that the Lord may "awaken in us a new awareness: that we learn to give thanks for every food, to consume simply, to share with joy, and to care for the fruits of the earth as a gift from You, destined for all, not just a few."

## Words from Pope Leo XIV



In recent days, many Catholics and other people of goodwill have been deeply disappointed by the disparaging comments directed at Pope Leo XIV by the President of the United States. The Successor of Saint Peter is not a politician — he is the Vicar of Christ, entrusted with proclaiming the Gospel and shepherding souls.

The Knights of Columbus has always stood in solidarity with the Holy Father, recognizing in him a spiritual father who calls the world not to division, but to unity, not to conflict, but to peace. In this moment, we reaffirm that commitment with clarity and conviction.

At the same time, we recognize that faithful Catholics can and do engage vigorously in the public square, and that nations have a right and duty to safeguard the security of their own people — always in accordance with the demands of justice and the pursuit of peace.

The Church does not ask Catholics to withdraw from civic life, but to engage with and elevate it — bringing to our civic dialogue the light of truth, respect for the dignity of every human person, and a steadfast concern for the common good.

Pope Leo XIV has consistently called for peace, dialogue, and restraint in a world marked by war and suffering. The Holy Father's words are not political talking points — they are reflections of the Gospel itself. Whether one agrees or disagrees with particular policy judgments, the Holy Father's prophetic voice deserves to be heard with respect and engaged seriously.

As Knights, we are called to be men of unity, as followers of Christ and patriotic citizens. I encourage all Knights of Columbus to pray for the Holy Father, to pray for civic leaders, and to pray for peace and those working to achieve it. And let us recommit ourselves to charity in our public discourse. May we be known not for echoing the divisions of our time, but for healing them. In a moment of tension, the path forward is not louder conflict, but deeper fidelity — to truth, to charity, and to the Gospel.



### 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.

## 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

### Lecturer's Message

Brothers,

We have all heard homilies that are explained to us on Sundays; however, do we choose to receive them? When it comes to what is explained to us in the homilies on Sunday, it can be easy for us to let our minds wander, burdened by what we may be thinking about or what we need to do in our lives; however, to receive the most out of Mass, we need to be attentive. When we become attentive, we

can find ourselves using the message to better others' lives, or even our own, through finding the correct answer when new challenges have our mind listening to what God is trying to tell us. Before any of this can begin, however, we have to learn what God's voice is, and through listening, we can make that distinction between His voice and what we need to do overall.

Joseph Wescoat

### 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
- Brother Ken Rose
- Brother Peter Pozniak's Sister Karen Pozniak, SND de N

#### 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)



### Treasurer's Report

#### Balances as of April 30, 2026

Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 1,929.22
Council Savings	\$15,843.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,032.06</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Interest Capital One Savings	\$1.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1.30</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
MACE Printing	\$ 145.70
Council Supplies	\$ 62.50
Computer and Web Expense	\$ 144.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 372.20</b>



- Mark Wright
- John Pozniak
- James Cadatal
- Patrick Kwok

## A Refuge in the Storm

### Knights mobilize to restore communities devastated by recent flooding in Hawaii

By Cecilia Engbert



**April 28, 2026**

*Dallas Carter (left), a member of St. Michael the Archangel Council 16741 in Waialua, and Father Romple Emwalu, council chaplain, speak with Josephine and Fredrick Diana, whose home was damaged by floodwaters. (Photo by Marco Garcia)*

From March 10-24, a series of devastating floods caused widespread damage across Hawaii, with prolonged, heavy rainfall affecting multiple islands, including O‘ahu, Maui, Kaua‘i and the Big Island.

As floodwaters forced thousands to evacuate and caused road closures and downed power lines, local Knights and the Hawaii State Council mobilized to distribute thousands of dollars through the Order’s Disaster Relief Fund and provide food and shelter assistance to families in need.

According to the state government, damage surpassed anything seen in 20 years, with more than 400 homes destroyed and statewide damage exceeding \$1 billion. To date, the Supreme Council has sent \$65,000 to support the state council’s efforts and 465 \$100 gift cards for distribution.

“It’s times like these when we often ask, ‘Where was God?’” said Joshua Kapika, past grand knight of St. Michael the Archangel Council 16741 in Waialua. “The answer is very simple; it’s in me. It’s in my brother Knights.”

Kapika is one of the thousands who evacuated with his family during the floods. But before he even set foot in his car to leave, he sent a message to council members and neighbors, checking on their safety. Since the storm, he has remained at the forefront of recovery efforts.

“We could have waited until somebody came to our rescue, but instead, we became the rescue,” Kapika said. That’s what it means to be a Knight of Columbus. It’s to be the rescue, to [do the work of] God in those moments that are difficult.”

Within the first 10 days of the disaster, the state council distributed more than \$15,000 in gift cards to hundreds of families in need. More than 90% of those served reported direct damage to their homes or property, with approximately half reporting insufficient or no flood insurance coverage. Nearly half of households that benefited from the gift cards included elderly residents.

In some cases, funding was used to assist with insurance deductibles; in others, it supported council-led repair efforts at parish facilities and community spaces. In partnership with EPIC Ministry, a lay organization of young adults, the Knights organized volunteer efforts ranging from needs assessment to cleanup and repair.



*A damaged property is seen in Waialua, Hawaii, in the aftermath of a series of floods in March.*

“It’s the Knights of Columbus that have the ability to be the first on the streets to help where it’s needed,” said Hawaii State Deputy Angelito Alvarez. The Order is “the strong right arm of the Church,” he added, “not only because of the money we hand out, but because we put our faith in action through our programs and the way we serve.”

Following the first storm, Alvarez visited parishes and homes across Maui to assess damage and offer support from the Knights. One of the first calls for help came from Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Waialua, where the Benedictine sisters were in need of potable water and cleaning supplies.

“We immediately reached out to [the monastery] to find out what was needed,” Alvarez said. “The problem at that point was it was right during the floods, and here in Waialua, the Benedictine monastery is up a very steep and winding road. It’s mostly dirt.”

Despite the challenge, a group of Knights coordinated and delivered critical storm and cleaning supplies to the monastery community, making the precarious journey

*(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

*(Continued from page 4)*

through damaged roads in an all-terrain vehicle.

“The Knights of Columbus has always been a part of this monastery’s life,” said Sister Celeste Cabral, prioress superior of the monastery. “With what the Hawaiian Islands are experiencing now with the storms, they stepped up and immediately called the monastery, letting me know that they are there to help wherever they can. Before I knew it, there was a truckload of items to be donated to those that were affected by the damages from the storms.”

Thanks to the donations from the Knights, the Benedictine sisters were able to distribute essential items to many families in need in Waiialua.

In addition to providing supplies, the Knights partnered with St. Michael Parish to support its “Mass and a Meal” initiative over Easter weekend, helping nourish the community both physically and spiritually during a critical time of recovery.

Dallas Carter, a member of St. Michael the Archangel Council 16741 and former president of EPIC Ministry, was among those assisting families with cleanup efforts the day after the flood hit.

“It’s my *kuleana* — that’s the Hawaiian word for ‘responsibility’ — to be out here offering the support ... to these families who are in great need,” Carter said. “We hope that disasters don’t happen, but when they do, I want to be there.”

One of the scariest experiences of any disaster is feeling like nobody cares, Carter said.

“But it’s not true. We’re here, and we do care, and we will give all the support that we’re able to give,” he said. “In the eyes of those that we’re helping, I do genuinely see the face of Christ.”

While conditions across the islands have stabilized, many areas continue to struggle through the recovery phase, particularly in coastal areas where floodwater contamination has created a shortage of safe drinking water.

“After touring the affected areas, I witnessed real destruction from the floods, and it was emotional for many who dealt with the massive water from overflowing rivers, the mold and other damages in their facilities,” Alvarez said. “I am eternally grateful to the Knights who stepped into the need of responding and helping.”

## Monthly Attendance Raffle

### May 2026

John Ruzzo won the April \$110 raffle but was not present to receive the prize. The May 2026 raffle is worth **\$120**. ***The winner must be present at the meeting to win!***

# May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
3	4	5 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Church of the Ascension-Worner)	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	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6

# June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31	Jun 1	2 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at St. Joseph of Cupertino, Fr. Greg Kimm Center)	3	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	30	Jul 1	2	3	4

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# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

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