



The Mace

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

Issue 691 • August 2026
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

Council Bus. Mtg. Aug. 4, 7:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart parish center
Fr. McGivney's B'day Aug. 13, 7:00 p.m.
Mass at Church of the Ascension
Council Bus. Mtg. Sept. 1, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Ascension, Worner Hall

Inside This Issue

Grand Knight's Message [Page 1](#)
Chaplain's Message [Page 1](#)
Announcement [Page 2](#)
Fr. McGivney Monthly Message.. [Page 2](#)
Thankful for What We Have [Page 2](#)
Council Officers..... [Page 2](#)
Treasurer's Report..... [Page 3](#)
Monthly Raffle..... [Page 3](#)
Prayer Requests..... [Page 3](#)
News from Supreme..... [Page 4](#)
Directors & Chairmen [Page 5](#)
Birthdays..... [Page 5](#)
Prayer of St. Francis..... [Page 5](#)
Council Calendar— [month] [Page 6](#)
Council Calendar—[month] [Page 7](#)
Mace Credits..... [Page 8](#)



Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

August brings the last full month of summer. Expect a mix of hot days and monsoonal moisture...exciting! August is Family Fun Month with a few special days, including National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day on the 4th (council meeting day) and National Relaxation Day on the 15th. August 13th is Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney's feast day, K of C founder. Enjoy these days with family and friends.

Our August 4th business meeting will be at Sacred Heart in the parish center. We will begin by reciting the rosary at 7 pm. The meeting will also be available on Zoom. Look for the meeting link and meeting room by email.

Our council members will gather for an evening Mass at Ascension Church honoring Father McGivney on his feast day. See Mace [page 2](#) for details.

Our corporation's charitable grant program is awaiting next grant applications to consider. We will discuss the timing of the next open grant period and the results of members ranking our traditional charity organizations. We will discuss letters notifying selected organizations of grant availability.

I welcome all our brothers to attend the meeting and to share ideas and plans with everyone. Those members attending in person or virtually are eligible for the attendance raffle. When you hear the sound of bottle caps shaking in a shoe box, pray to your favorite saint that a winner will be chosen and that it be you! We will all happily congratulate the lucky winner.

Love and Fraternity,

Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Building Community and Connections

People living in crowded cities often feel more emotionally and socially isolated than those in smaller towns or rural areas. This paradox shows that even with many people around, interactions in cities can be shallow. On the other hand, smaller communities encourage deeper connections because of close distances, frequent meetings, and reliance on one another. Seeing familiar faces regularly in less populated places builds trust and friendships, strengthening social ties.

Similarly, parishes, especially large ones, need small groups to encourage personal connections, spiritual

development, and mutual support. They transform large congregations into smaller groups where individuals know and care for one another. The Knights of Columbus at the parish or inter-parish level can assist in building the connections and support that people need.

The Holy Father's prayer intention for August highlights the issue of loneliness in urban areas. Joining with him, "Let us pray that in large cities, frequently defined by anonymity and isolation, we can uncover new methods to share the Gospel and find creative ways to establish community."

Fr. Hao

Special Announcement

Council 4981 is celebrating Fr. Michael McGivney's birthday at a Mass on Thursday, August 13, at the Church of the Ascension at 7:00 pm.

PLEASE JOIN THE MASS AND CELEBRATION



Fr. McGivney Monthly Message

Catholic and American

By permission of our Rt. Rev. Bishop and in accordance with an Act of the Legislature of the State of Connecticut, we have formed an organization under the name of the Knights of Columbus.

These first words of a letter written in April 1882 by Father McGivney to the Catholic pastors of Connecticut may not strike us as extraordinary. But if read in the context of his time — when there were competing views on how Catholics should live their faith in a hostile Protestant culture — the message is monumental.

In one sentence, we see the mind and mission of Father McGivney. The Catholic identity of the Order would be assured by the bishop's permission and the cooperation of pastors, and civic recognition would be provided by the legislature.

Unlike some Catholic fraternities of the day, this new organization would not seek to protect or project Old World identity. The Knights of Columbus would not be Irish (though most of the first members were) or Italian or German or French — it would be proudly American and devotedly Catholic.

Columbus was chosen as patron because he was a universally respected figure who opened up America to the world — a subtle way of saying that Catholics were here first.

As the U.S. continues this month to celebrate and contemplate its 250th anniversary, we may thank Father McGivney for the bold foresight and careful planning that brought forth the Knights of Columbus, which is now a force for good around the globe.

Brian Caulfield

Vice Postulator

guild@kofc.org

Thankful For What We Have

Brothers,

It is easy to forget what we have been afforded in our daily lives, but when we look back at what the Lord has provided for us, we should be more grateful. Take, for example, your phone. It is a simple thing we take for granted daily, but it is something of a necessity in our lives. When we begin to acknowledge that we have been blessed with these little items, we then can take into account the bigger items. Such as our ability to breathe, walk, or communicate. These were all given to us through the Lord. We should use these larger things to the best of our abilities to glorify the Lord in our daily lives.

Joseph Wescoat

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



Treasurer's Report July 31, 2026

Balances	
Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 3,960.07
Council Savings	\$10,846.66
TOTAL	\$15,065.93
Income	
Interest Capital One Savings	\$0.92
TOTAL	\$0.92
Expenses	
MACE Printing	\$166.37
Postage	\$109.20
TOTAL	\$275.47

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)

Monthly Attendance Raffle



Joseph Wescoat won the July raffle of \$10 but was not present to receive the prize. The August 2026 raffle is worth \$20. **The winner must be present at the meeting to claim the prize!**

News from Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



One Nation, Under God

By Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly

In May, I traveled to France to attend Warriors to Lourdes — our annual pilgrimage co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. There, wounded, ill, and injured veterans seek healing and peace from the physical and psychological effects of war. It was a moving experience to accompany these men and women who have sacrificed so much in service to this nation.

It was also an opportunity to reflect on the 250th anniversary of the United States and the contributions the Knights of Columbus has made to our nation over the years.

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights to unite the men of St. Mary's Parish in faith and service during a time of great division. The Civil War was still fresh in the minds of Father McGivney and the early Knights. The Industrial Revolution had brought dangerous working conditions and little support for workers injured or killed on the job. Catholics faced widespread discrimination and social barriers that limited opportunity and forced many into isolated communities. The dominant Protestant culture often viewed them with suspicion and questioned whether Catholics — most of them immigrants — could be loyal American citizens.

In the decades that followed, the Knights of Columbus proved its worth. We fought and died for our country in times of war and promoted its ideals in times of peace. We championed religious freedom and funded the U.S. Supreme Court case that struck down state laws aimed at

banning Catholic education. We worked for racial equality when many others looked the other way.

Because of our history, religious freedom has always been a central concern. In 1954, the Knights played a key role in adding the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance. To this day, the United States remains “one nation, under God.”

For the Order, patriotism is more than a sentiment. It means helping to build a just and flourishing society. By strengthening families and serving our communities, we help shape the culture of our nation.

The Order has contributed greatly to the good of our nation. Yet perhaps our most important contributions are those that often go unheralded. I am speaking of the daily work of our local councils and assemblies — bringing men and families together in service to their parishes and communities. This work strengthens social bonds, assists those most in need and supports people living on the margins. It fosters solidarity and civic virtue, helping us become better citizens and contributing to the common good in ways that cannot be measured.

For this reason, it is not a stretch to say that patriotism is in the DNA of the Knights of Columbus — and that to be a Knight is to be a patriot. Some may hesitate to use that word, fearing it implies blind allegiance or political partisanship.

But that is not how the Church — or the Knights — understands patriotism. At its core, patriotism is a rightly ordered gratitude. It is the duty of allegiance we owe our nation in recognition of the blessings we have received — gratitude to God and gratitude for a country that has allowed so many good things to flourish: our families, our Church, our councils and our communities.

For the Order, patriotism is more than a sentiment. It means helping to build a just and flourishing society. Through our principles and service, we help shape the character of our members, which in turn shapes the character of our families — the fundamental cell of society. By strengthening families and serving our communities, we help shape the culture of our nation.

As we celebrate this nation's 250th anniversary, let us do so with gratitude for the many gifts God has given us. And as an Order, let us renew our commitment to the work before us, helping ensure that our country will always remain one nation, under God.

Vivat Jesus!

Directors & Chairmen

Program Director

Ron Schoengold

Church Director

John Pozniak

Vocations	<i>John Steffens</i>
McGivney Shrine	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>
Bingo	<i>open</i>
Parish Round Tables	
Queen of Apostles	<i>open</i>
Sacred Heart in Saratoga	<i>open</i>
St. Joseph of Cupertino	<i>Joe Kenney</i>
Church of the Ascension	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>

Community Director

Culture of Life	<i>Joe Kenney</i>
Charities	<i>Patrick Kwok</i>
Divine Mercy	
& Rosary Visitation	<i>John Steffens</i>
Food for Families	<i>Dick Sherman</i>
People with	
Intellectual Disabilities	<i>open</i>
Mass of Reparation	<i>open</i>
Community Projects	<i>Round Table Members</i>
Breakfast Supreme	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>

Council Director

Open

Fraternal Affairs	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>
First Degree Team	<i>John Pozniak</i>
Public Relations	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>
Website	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>
Communications	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>
Past Grand Knights Dinner	<i>open</i>
Special Appreciation Night	<i>Patrick Kwok</i>
McGivney Pilgrimage	<i>John Pozniak</i>

Family Director

Ed Johnson

Leisure Nights	<i>open</i>
Memorial Mass	<i>open</i>
Ladies Night	<i>John Steffens</i>
Ice Cream Social	<i>Grand Knight Elect</i>
Christmas Dinner	<i>Ron Schoengold</i>
Annual Picnic	<i>open</i>

Youth Director

Open

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

Membership & Retention

*Mark Wright**

John Pozniak



Birthdays in August

None of our Council 4981 Knights have a birthday in August.



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.

August 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
2	3	4 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Sacred Heart Church, Recreation Center)	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 7:00pm Mass Celebrating Fr. McGivney's Birthday (Church of the	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5

September 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30	31	Sep 1 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Church of the Ascension, Worner Hall Lounge)	2	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	Oct 1	2	3

St. Francis of Assisi Council 4981
Knights of Columbus
19000 Saratoga Glen Place
Saratoga, CA 95070



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

The Mace

Published monthly by
Saint Francis of Assisi Council 4981
Knights of Columbus
Serving Cupertino, San Jose & Saratoga California
District 34 — Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Editor-in-Chief
Ron Schoengold
Assignment Editor
Ron Schoengold
Copy Editor
Ron Schoengold
Layout Editor
Ruthann Stolzman
Contributors
Fr. Hao Dinh
Ed Johnson
John Steffens
Ron Schoengold
Distribution Manager
Arline Schoengold
Printer
Ruthann Stolzman
©2024 St. Francis of
Assisi Council 4981
All Rights Reserved