



The Mace

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

Issue 692 • September 2026
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

Council Bus. Mtg. Sept 1, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Ascension, Worner Hall
Council Bus. Mtg. Oct 6, 7:00 p.m.
St Joseph of Cupertino
(See calendars for more events)

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

September ushers in the shoulder season of autumn with some of the warmest days before succumbing to the ever-shorter days and cool nights. We will enjoy Labor Day and its long weekend as the end of meteorological summer and remember the events of September 11th on Patriot Day that same week. Then celebrate the first day of Autumn on September 22, along with a few other special days throughout the month.

Our September 1st 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.

Council members are invited to attend the ice cream social at Ascension Church on Saturday the 5th at 3 pm. This is an opportunity to meet parishioners and possibly invite men to join the Knights. On Sunday the 13th, a Ministry Fair at Ascension coincides with the parish picnic. Our council

will have a table with information. Come and support our recruitment efforts.

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish will hold its Feast Day Celebration on Sunday the 20th from noon to about 4 pm. Our council will provide two dishes and will help serve. Members are welcome to help with this fun event.

Save the date: Sunday, 4 October will be the council Bocce picnic at Blackberry Farm starting at 1 pm.

Our corporation's charitable grant program has opened the next grant period with a focus on organizations that we have helped before. We now have a clear process that only needs practice to become well established.

As always, I invite all our members to attend the business meeting, share your thoughts with the brothers, and help the council move ahead.

Peace and Honor,

Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Care for the Gift of Water

September 1st is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, a day that Pope Francis established in 2015. It's a moment for us to express our gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of our shared home and natural resources. He pointed out the significance of water, referring to it as "a very simple and precious element," yet sadly, many people find it hard, if not impossible, to access. He called on all of us to help take care of the gifts that our rivers, seas, and oceans provide. "We cannot allow our seas and oceans to be littered by endless fields of floating plastic," he urged.

Moreover, for many decades now, water has taken on a more critical resource than oil in the conflicts across the Middle East. The

area depends a lot on centralized, high-value facilities such as coastal desalination plants and large river dams. These crucial water resources are under serious threat from regional conflicts, not to mention the challenges posed by climate change and the alarming depletion of groundwater.

In unity with Pope Leo's September prayer intention, "let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it." Furthermore, let's pray that warring parties hold back from targeting or damaging the water systems that are so vital for millions.

Fr. Hao



Saintly Fathers for Catholic Men to Model

How their witness can strengthen our faith and leadership for our families

No father is perfect — or is required to be. But every fathers' duty is to provide for their family and be a model for their children to imitate.

Strong, healthy fatherhood is crucial to a child's well-being. So too in faith: faithful fathers play an irreplaceable role in their own children's relationship with God.

But fathers cannot live the faith alone. Everyone needs models — especially of faith. As Scripture teaches, iron sharpens iron. Thankfully, the Church offers examples of fathers who exemplify the heroic virtues necessary to lead holy lives. Here are a few:

St. Joseph

St. Joseph is *the* prime example of fatherhood. Though silent throughout Scripture, Christ's foster-father exhibited tremendous grace, obedience and fortitude when God entrusted him with the Virgin Mary and Jesus. He trusted God wholeheartedly: from welcoming Mary into his home to fleeing to Egypt to protect the Holy Family from persecution.

He also led a quiet, dutiful life as a carpenter, working hard to provide for Mary and Jesus. Both needed St. Joseph to survive. Today, the Church offers him as a spiritual father to help us be better fathers and men of faith. All we have to do is ask for his intercession.

St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More is perhaps most well-known for his final words at his execution: "I die the king's good servant, and God's first."

Once lord chancellor, one of the loftiest positions in England, More refused to acknowledge the Church of England's supremacy over the Catholic Church — and King Henry VIII's divorce from Queen Catherine. In effect, he professed the sanctity of marriage and sacrificed his life for the sacrament.

But more than a lawyer, public servant, author and confidant of the king, he was a father who adored his children and grandchildren.

His faith sustained him as a father, even when facing martyrdom. In his final days, he urged his family to remain also faithful and trust God's providence. As he wrote, "Nothing can come but what God wills, and I am very sure that whatever that be, however bad it may seem, it shall indeed be the best."

More's life shows that, no matter our trials and tribulations, faith strengthens our resolve. That witness can echo through the centuries, not only within a family, but for the entire Church. If you're facing hardships as a father, look to St. Thomas More — the man for all seasons.

Karol Wojtyla

As George Weigel describes in *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*, the future pontiff — and saint — shared how his "father's way of life" planted the "idea that the life of faith has first to do with interior conversion."

The older Karol Wojtyla was a military officer during and after World War I, and also a "man of constant prayer," according to his namesake and canonized son. When it came to faith, he led his son by example. As Weigel's biography describes, "At night, as in the early morning, young Karol would find his father on his knees silently praying. Father and son read the Bible together and prayed the rosary regularly. ...[he] taught his son that the Church is more than a visible institution."

Wojtyla and his wife, Emilia, have an open cause for canonization. Like Louis Martin, he demonstrates how our own faith may affect our children, inspiring vocations, devotion and even the next great pope or saint.

Council Officers

Grand Knight

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Chaplain

Fr. Hao Dinh
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408-444-3725

Chancellor

Donald Goers
630-329-9765

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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

Through Good and the Bad

Hello Brothers,

In our daily lives, we have moments that are both good and bad. When we have the good times, we should enjoy them and use them to glorify God. Then, when we have bad times, how do we handle them? If they don't glorify God, we should reevaluate how we go through them. Though they may be difficult in the moment, we should realize

they can strengthen our bond with God if we continue to trust in Him and let Him guide us. As a result, we can use hard times as a time of praise and worship as we persevere.

Joseph Wescoat

Monthly Attendance Raffle

Joe Kenney won the August raffle of \$20 but was not present to receive the prize. The September 2026 raffle is worth **\$30**. ***The winner must be present at the meeting to claim the prize!***



Joseph Wescoat

Patrick Sheehy

Donald Sifferman

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@goldsolutions.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 Fernando Motas' mother, Concepcion

Brother Ken Rose

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 August 31, 2026	
Balances	
Charity Checking	\$259.20
Checking	\$4,073.47
Council Savings	\$10,847.58
TOTAL	\$15,180.25
Income	
Dues	\$480.00
Interest Capital One Savings	\$0.92
TOTAL	\$480.92
Expenses	
MACE Printing	\$166.27
Supreme Per Capita	\$22.83
Council Rent	\$150.00
Supreme Catholic Advertising	\$27.50
TOTAL	\$366.60



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



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 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 3:00pm Ascension Ice Cream Social (Outside Worner Hall Lounge)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 12:00pm Ascension Parish Picnic & Ministry Fair (Ministry Fair)	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 12:00pm St. Joseph of Cupertino Feast Day Celebration	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3

October 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
4	5	6 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at St. Joseph of Cupertino)	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

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

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