The Mace

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

Issue 694 • November 2026
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

Council Bus. Mtg. Nov. 3, 7:00 p.m.
Queen of Apostles
Council Bus. Mtg. Dec.1, 7:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

November has arrived as the calendar year nears the end, a very active end. November is the month of remembrance, with All Saints ' Day and All Souls' Day at the start. We take time to remember our brothers, family, and friends who have passed on. Election Day falls on the same day as the council meeting and brings changes to civil governance. Veterans Day reminds us of those men and women who have served in our military. Thanksgiving Day brings families and friends together. Advent begins on the last Sunday of November, and we begin the Christmas Season. The November 3rd business meeting will be at Queen of Apostles Parish in the meeting room by the gym vestibule. 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. The Columbian Corporation's charitable grant program received applications for grants and has issued at least two in October. We will discuss applications and grants at the business meeting. Let's plan a Christmas event for the council's brothers and families. This could be a dinner, activity, or mystery event. Bring your ideas. I welcome all our brothers to the business meeting and to participate in council activities. Those attending in person or virtually are eligible for the attendance raffle. Will your number be pulled from the shoebox? Let's find out on Tuesday evening.

Peace and Memories,

Ed Johnson, Grand Knight

Chaplain's Message

Thanksgiving and Solidarity

Thanksgiving often brings to mind images of hearty feasts and bustling shopping trips. At its core, this holiday is really about the connections we share with one another. It's a time to embrace gratitude and solidarity, to acknowledge the blessings in our lives, and to extend a helping hand to those in our community who might be struggling.

Last year, Pope Leo XIV shared his perspective on this special day. He described Thanksgiving as a celebration that unites Americans from all walks of life, regardless of their religious beliefs. Speaking from Castel Gandolfo just before the holiday, the Holy Father highlighted the importance of gratitude and unity, urging everyone to express their thanks, cherish fundamental blessings like life and faith, and work towards peace and harmony.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word for Jew, Yehudi, is derived from Yehudah, which means gratitude. As Catholics, we express our thanks to God not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, which itself means thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Fr. Hao

Fellow Brothers

When we think about our lives, we can consider what we have been given, but have we created obstacles for God? Indeed, there are some things that we cannot give up, such as caring for sick family members. However, other things, such as sacrificing our time with God for the material world, are things we should reconsider. These items can include a football game, texting friends for a long time, or spending time with someone for material gain. These things can be hard at first, but once we learn to master them, we can continue to worship God with our full potential.

Joseph Wescoat

Our Call to Holiness

The beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen last month in St. Louis was a widely celebrated event for the Church in the United States. The great preacher and member of the Knights of Columbus reached millions with the Gospel message through his radio and TV shows, and made thousands of converts through his personal presence and unwavering proclamation of the truth. I had the privilege as a child to hear the archbishop preach his annual Seven Last Words in midtown Manhattan, when loudspeakers were placed outside the packed St. Agnes Church.

This month marks the sixth anniversary of the beatification of Father McGivney, who was raised to the honors of the altar on Oct. 31, 2020. In his own way, Father McGivney has reached millions with the Gospel message through the Knights of Columbus, which has grown from its 1882 founding in New Haven, Connecticut, to a worldwide organization of more than 2 million members and their families.

These two well-known figures are not the only Americans recognized for their exemplary lives. In fact, this is an era for holy American men and women, with more than 80 active U.S.-based sainthood causes in numerous dioceses.

As we pray for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney, let us recognize our own call to holiness. In this way, we will live out the vision of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, who promoted holiness among the laypeople of his day.

Brian Caulfield
Vice Postulator
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Open

Outside Guard
Open

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510-404-8080

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Toby Laufer
408-455-7321



John Foley
Joseph Mc Bride
Thomas Gaynor

Monthly Attendance Raffle

November 2026

John Pozniak won the September prize of $40 and was present at the meeting to collect the prize. The November 2026 raffle is worth **$10**. ***The winner must be present at the meeting to claim the prize!***



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 Ron Schoengold's wife, Arline
Brother Fernando Motas' mother, Concepcion
Brother Ken Rose
Brother Ed's wife, Joan
Brother Joh Steffen's brother, James

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)

A Father's Sacrifice

October 28, 2026

In life and death, my father taught me by his actions what it means to love sacrificially.

By Father Thomas Vander Woude



Thomas Vander Woude Sr. is pictured with six of his seven sons in 2002. (Photo courtesy of Father Thomas Vander Woude)

Editor's note: The potential cause for the canonization of Thomas Steven Vander Woude, a Virginia father and Knight of Columbus who sacrificed his life to save his son in 2008, took an important step forward on Sept. 10, 2026, when Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington issued an official edict requesting that the faithful submit any information that should be considered in the investigation. The edict was the first public notification that a cause for canonization is being considered. The following essay, written by Vander Woude's eldest son, Father Thomas P. Vander Woude, originally appeared in the June 2012 issue of Columbia.

In September 2008, I was called to an emergency room to console a family that had lost its dad. I also anointed the injured son whom the father had died to save. Priests are often called to hospitals, but this visit was different: The dad was my father, Thomas Vander Woude, and the son he saved was my youngest brother, Joseph.

My father died after Joseph, who has Down syndrome, fell into a septic tank on the family's land. My father jumped into the tank to rescue Joseph but was unable to climb out himself. My dad's heroic action was the fulfillment of his vocation, as every husband and father is called to sacrifice his life for his wife and children. His fulfillment as a man and the joy of his vocation depend on it.

St. Paul exhorts men to love their wives "as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her" (Eph 5:25). How does a husband and father hand himself over to his bride and children? He follows the example of Jesus Christ, who offered himself on the cross for his bride (the Church) and for his children (all of us). Most husbands and fathers will not be required to give up their lives to the point of death. But every husband and father is required to give up his life for his wife and children in daily sacrifice. The small and hidden sacrifices of family life can be challenging but can lead to perfection when practiced over time.

In fact, every man — whether single, married or consecrated — is called to give himself to God and his neighbor. A boy learns this lesson of self-gift in the family, particularly from his father. Even more important than a father's words to his sons is his example of self-gift to his family and to God. When a father speaks of sacrifice through his actions, a boy learns the essence of manhood.

In our family of seven sons, we learned this self-sacrifice from our father. We learned love. My father influenced me greatly in my own vocation and taught me how to love God and others. I watched him pray daily at Mass and lead our family in the rosary. By example, he taught me and my brothers to sacrifice for loved ones and family. Dad gave up a career in the military for our family. He and Mom moved so their sons could receive strong Catholic schooling. My father spent time with us through sports and work around the house. He also taught me the value of hard work, which he learned growing up on a farm. Granted, I did not learn the patience to work with my hands as well as my brothers did. However, Dad instilled in me the discipline to give my full effort in my work to get the job done. As a priest, I learned to love my spouse, the Church, and my children, my parishioners.

The news of my father's death spread quickly through local and national media. Even in our skeptical, self-centered culture, something is compelling about the story of a father giving up his life for his son. It affirms everything we know to be right and echoes the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. The example of a father to his sons can and should guide them to live and love as men. Such an example will undoubtedly involve a life of daily prayer in which one encounters the perfect man, Jesus Christ. Sons will learn the virtues necessary to be dedicated husbands and fathers, whether physical or spiritual. I am thankful to Almighty God for the gift of my father, who guided me in word and example how to be a man.

*****

FATHER THOMAS VANDER WOUDE is pastor of St. Mary of Sorrows Parish in Fairfax, Va., and faithful friar of Father Thomas Anthony Casey Assembly 3596 in Fairfax Station.

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 October, 2026

Balances

Charity Checking	$259.20
Checking	$3,072.89
Council Savings	$10,849.39
TOTAL	$14,181.48

Income

Interest Capital One Savings	$0.92
Dues	$240.00
TOTAL	$240.92

Expenses

MACE Printing	$106.27
Membership Expenses	$40.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	$181.09
Charities	$400.00
Computer & Web Expenses	$180.00
TOTAL	$907.36



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.

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1	2	3 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at ; Queen of Apostles Chruch, room next to gym)	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING 	27	28
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5

December 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29	30	Dec 1 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Sacred Heart Church)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 27	2

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