



September 2023

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWSLETTER

COUNCIL #7621 - TARPON SPRINGS, FL

OKTOBERFEST

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH
K OF C
COUNCIL 7621

OCTOBER 13TH, 2023

FOOD - MUSIC - DANCING - SILENT AUCTION

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
715 E. ORANGE ST. TARPON SPRINGS

\$60 Donation

Call 727-798-4368 for tickets

SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH GRANTS

Empower
Youth Dreams
With Mini
Grants:

**Be a Beacon
of Change!**

Find out more
Use the QR Code



What's In This Issue

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- Field Agent Message
- A Peek at Next Month

LEARN MORE: WWW.KOCIGNATIUS.ORG

Upcoming Events



Nativity Silhouettes First Friday Tarpon

Sept 1st - 6:00 to 10:00 PM

Stop by our booth

Come & Enjoy a fun night!

**Invite your friends to find
out about the Knights**

**Membership Drive
Sunday, September 17th**



St. Ignatius of Antioch Council 7621
Tarpon Springs, Florida

***(Also Nativity Silhouettes Sale at front of church)**



**Join Us for a Corporate Mass
Sunday, September 17th at 11:30 AM**

Wear your KOC shirt & bring the family & kids to share this Mass

Join us for the next meeting:
**Thursday, September 21st
7:00 PM**

Knights of
Columbus
Council #7621



LEARN MORE: WWW.KOCIGNATIUS.ORG

Upcoming Events

Have you got your tickets yet?

Ask a Knight **or click the QR Code below to buy tickets online!**



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Call 727-798-4368 for tickets

OR use QR Code



SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH GRANTS

Catholic Issues



WARNING!
DON'T SIGN!

Paid campaigners are circulating a petition to change the FL Constitution. The title of the petition is "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion". If passed, this amendment will eliminate all pro-life laws previously passed. VISIT: WWW.FLACCB.ORG to read the July 20 press release from the:

 **FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**
The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

If you'd like to read the report from the Catholic Bishops, click this link: WWW.FLACCB.ORG

For more information:

Go to: Suncoastcatholics.org

Spiritual Reflections

by Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain Council #7621

One of the scribes ask Jesus, “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mk 12:28-31

My brothers,

I feel so honored, humbled, and blessed to serve as your chaplain. In my 32 years of priesthood, I have never been able to serve as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. It is a great honor. Thank you. I also feel very humbled to follow in the footsteps of my dear friend and brother Father Joseph Mary Paek, OSB. He is truly a very holy and inspired spiritual leader. I promise to do all I can to continue his legacy. Finally, I also feel blessed. I believe that God has placed me for this ministry so that I might become a holier priest, a more faithful Knight, and a better Christian. It is a special blessing to serve alongside our team of officers. Each and every one of them has my utmost respect and admiration. I am sure to learn much from them and from all of you in the coming months. Thank you for this opportunity to serve!

I chose the passage above (Mark 12:28-31) because it really sets the mission for each of us as Christians, Knights of Columbus, and as husbands, fathers, and friends. It must be our top priority to grow ever more in love with God. Loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Failure is not an option.

So how can you grow ever more in love with God this year? How can you give Him more of your heart, soul, mind, and strength? This is something I aspire to every day. I want to give the Lord my best. Only then will all the other pieces of my life fall into place. In a very real sense, it is impossible to truly be a Knight if we are not fully loyal and committed to Christ our King. We must truly give Him our all and surrender our will to His! While this may seem impossible for us, for God all things are possible!

The second commandment flows from the first. Our relationship with the Lord must affect how we interact with others. We can't say we truly love God if we don't love our neighbor. So the question is, 'How can I better love my neighbor as myself?' during the coming year? Given the challenges of work and family in an increasingly polarized and combative world, loving our neighbor can be a struggle.

Remember that our fraternity is built on the values of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. How might we better live these values at home, work, church, and in the marketplace? How might we better model these values for our family, friends, coworkers, and fellow parishioners? Good questions!

As I begin my ministry as your chaplain, I ask for your prayers. You know I need them! I also ask that you reach out to men you know and invite them to become a Knight. I recently learned that my nephew became a Knight. I thank God for the men who reached out to him and encouraged him to join. I know that being a member will be a great blessing to him, his wife, and his children.

May God bless you and our Council!

Fr Bill

Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain



St. Ignatius of Antioch Council 7621
Tarpon Springs, Florida

Grand Knight's Note

Council #7621

Sir John Donnell



Embracing the Brotherhood & Values of the Knights of Columbus

My Fellow Knights,

I'm often asked why I joined the Knights of Columbus. For several years I was hounded to become a member.

After retiring from my career, I developed a sincere interest in the KOC, and learned through research & conversations with current members to admire the values, principles, and sense of brotherhood that the Knights represented. As a person who firmly believes in serving the community and making a positive impact on the lives of others, the Knights of Columbus aligned perfectly with my personal values and aspirations.

I have witnessed the remarkable contributions made by this organization towards various charitable causes, supporting the less fortunate, promoting educational initiatives, and fostering a strong sense of unity among members and the community alike.

The four pillars of the Knights of Columbus—*Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism*—are not just mere words but a way of life that resonates with me deeply. The commitment to charitable acts, both locally and globally, showcases the Knights' dedication to making the world a better place for all. The unity among members fosters a strong and supportive brotherhood that allows individuals to grow spiritually and intellectually while building a stronger Catholic Church, parish and community.

Now, as a Grand Knight, I lead some of the finest men I know, in an effort to honor Jesus Christ by trying to fulfill our purpose on earth. I implore you to join us and confirm your dedication to achieving a vibrant Catholic life with community service.

Please consider joining our KOC organization Council #7621.

Vivat Jesus!!

John Donnell

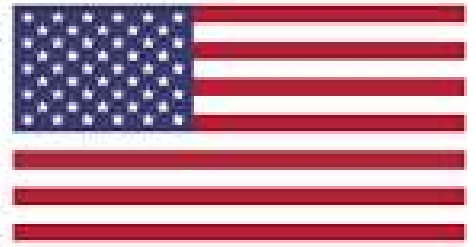
727-798-4368



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FOURTH
DEGREE

Patriotic Degree of the Order



ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Do you know a Veteran?

Let's honor them and their service



Gary Gilchrist from Honor Flight of West Central Florida presented an excellent program for the Assembly and guests.

It was a great success. Lori, an escort and her veteran, Frank talked about their experience. We got three to four escorts and two veterans to sign-up for a **FREE** flight.

We still need guardians/escorts for the vets on our two fall flights on **Tuesday, Sept. 12th 2023 and Oct. 24th 2023**. The only requirement is that the guardian ***MUST be over 18 and up to 75 and can't be a spouse of the vet they accompany***. The escort/ guardian is asked to donate \$500 for the flight. Again, the Vets fly **FREE!** Applications can be made via the internet at: **www.Honorflightwcf.org**

CAN YOU HELP?

If you know a Veteran who would like to experience an Honor Flight at no cost to them or you wish to ***"Welcome them Home!"*** at St. Pete/Clearwater airport at the **September 12th flight**, please call me at: **727-514-0049**.

Vivat Jesus!

Sir Don Tobey

Faithful Navigator

Fr. Edward J Farrell Assembly #1774



District Deputy Note

District 37

Sir David Creamer



Brother Knights,

With our Officers installed now, we can begin the business of running our councils for the betterment of our parishes. We have plenty of events scheduled for the coming months, but we must always be looking to add that little function that helps us stand out. These charitable events make us stick out as helping others which enables us to also look worthy of having men join our group and to be able to do even more good acts. Charity is one of our main purposes and must forever be set as an example for others to join in and help us do the most good. Assisting in liturgical functions is good for ourselves as well as leading others down the right path. Always be available to assist in our celebrations of God's work here on earth, so as to prepare us to receive the ultimate reward of life everlasting with Him. Though we are forced to say goodbye to friends at times as they leave this part of life, be comforted with the thought of rejoining them in the next phase of our existence. Focusing on God is the best way of achieving greatness and achieving our goals, May God bless us all.

Vivat Jesus!

David Creamer

District Deputy 37



KOC Baptismal Program

Let's Celebrate their Baptism

All Baptisms are on Saturday at 10:00AM after the 9:00 AM Mass and healing service.

September 2nd: *Olivia Bolton & Abigail Bolton* will receive their First Sacrament. Officiant will be Deacon Mike. The Knights Baptism team is Paul & Lela Biggins

September 9th: *Easton Thomas Groc* will receive his First Sacrament. Officiant will be Fr. Bill. The Knights Baptism team is TBA.

September 30th: *Emmalina Kate Arahood* will receive her First Sacrament. Officiant will be Fr. Daniel. The Knights Baptism team is Jack & Mary Peeke.

We have an opening for another Baptismal team. Please contact us if interested.



If you'd like to join, please call Steve Thomas
508-320-6423
Baptismal Team Leader



A Message from our Field Agent

Dear KofC Family,

Every September a non-profit organization known as Life Happens coordinates the Life Insurance Awareness Month campaign. This campaign is dedicated to informing people about how important life insurance is to protect their families. Life insurance is a cornerstone of a family's future financial security.

Blessed Michael McGivney certainly knew how important life insurance was to a family. But many members don't understand how involved Fr. McGivney was in developing the Order's insurance program. According to Christopher Kauffman, the author of the centennial history of the Order, Faith and Fraternalism, The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982, one of Fr. McGivney's two main reasons for founding the Order was "the need to protect families during sickness and death." (pg. 17) Kauffman goes on to say that Fr. McGivney "spent his energy in promoting the insurance feature." (pg. 35) Originally, when the Order was founded, there was no such thing as an "associate member." Everyone was insured; that was one of those two primary reasons for joining.

While the Order is now well known for its charitable works and strong advocacy for the most vulnerable, strengthening men in their faith and protecting them and their families with life insurance were twin catalysts in forming the Order. While young Catholic men still seek to strengthen their faith, we know families still need protection from untimely death. This mission remains just as important today.

In an attempt to make every member and every eligible Catholic man aware of how important life insurance is, the Order has made a substantial investment. The Order has provided me with a high-tech, state of the art financial needs analysis platform that can help us determine where you stand today. It can help me formulate a strategy for you and your family and offer meaningful insurance and financial solutions...a strategy specific to your family and your situation.

What can Knights of Columbus life insurance provide? Peace of mind and security, through a uniquely Catholic perspective.

Vivat Jesus
Thomas Spinelli
Thomas.Spinelli@kofc.org
(352) 895-8586



Knights of Columbus
Asset Advisors®

Thomas Spinelli
Advisor
Spinelli Agency
M: 352-895-8586
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-Thomas-Spinelli.html>

Catholic Investing

Let your faith guide your financial decisions

[LEARN MORE](#)

A Peek at Next Month

Respect for Life Memorial Service

Sunday, October 1st - After the 11:30 AM Mass

First Friday Tarpon Springs

Friday, October 6th - 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

BIG Breakfast

Sunday, October 8th - After Masses

OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 13th - Doors open 5:30 PM

Get your tickets -->



KOC Corporate Mass

Saturday, October 14th - 4:00 PM

KOC Business Meeting

Thursday, October 19th - 7:00 PM

Nativity Silhouettes Sales

Sunday, October 29th - At Masses

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Monday, October 30th