

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ST. MARY OF THE GROVE  
COUNCIL 11138**



*St. Mary Catholic Church  
15520 N. Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33613*

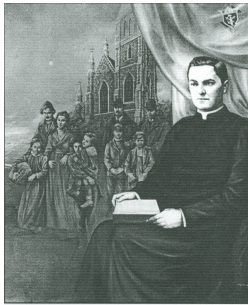
*Meetings:  
First (business) &  
Third (social)  
Thursday each month.*



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



**ORIGINS** - On March 29, 1882, the Connecticut state legislature officially chartered the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society. The Order is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity. The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. The history of the Order shows how the foresight of Father Michael J. McGivney, whose cause for sainthood is being investigated by the Vatican, brought about what has become the world's foremost Catholic fraternal benefit society. The Order has helped families obtain economic security and stability through its life insurance, annuity and long-term care programs, and has contributed time and energy worldwide to service in communities. The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and 1.7 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan.



**HISTORY** - On October 2, 1881, a group of men met in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Called together by their 29-year-old parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, these men formed a fraternal society that would one day become the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. These men were bound together by the ideal of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas, the one whose hand brought Christianity to the New World. Their efforts came to fruition with the incorporation of the Knights of Columbus. The Order has been called "the strong right arm of the Church" and has been praised by popes, presidents and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need.

Father McGivney's founding vision for the Order also included a life insurance program to provide for the widows and orphans of deceased members. The Order's insurance program has expanded substantially to serve more effectively the Knights' growing membership.

The Supreme Council is the governing body of the Knights of Columbus and is responsible for the development of the organization as a whole. Members working in local, or subordinate councils, however, carry on the majority of the Knights' beneficial work.

### **STRUCTURE** -

***Supreme Council Office*** - Led by the Supreme Knight (Carl Anderson), the chief executive officer of the Knights. The office provides administrative support and leadership for our more than 14,000 local units.

***Jurisdictions*** - The Supreme Council has more than 75 state council organizations to help guide regional activities that are consistent with the principles of the Order. Our jurisdiction is the Florida State Council headed by State Deputy Douglas Murray.



***Districts*** - Each state council is divided into districts - groupings of several local councils. The Florida State Council has more than 60 Districts including the Bahamas. The District Deputy for St. Mary of the Grove Council is Jose A. Raimundi.

***Local Councils*** - Local councils are the basic unit of the Knights. Most are based in parishes, though some have their own council hall within a community. Each local council works to assist with the needs of its community consistent with the principles of the Order.

***Insurance Agents*** - Every council is assigned a certified insurance agent, who is a Knight, and whose job it is to provide our top-rated products focused on the financial needs of members' family.

**PRINCIPLES** - All the good works we do are informed by our four core principles:

***Charity*** - Our Catholic faith teaches us to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Members of the Knights of Columbus show love for their neighbors by conducting food drives and donating the food to local soup kitchens and food pantries, by volunteering at Special Olympics, and by supporting, both spiritually and materially, mothers who choose life for their babies. Knights recognize that our mission, and our faith in God, compels us to action. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need, a call we answer every day.

***Unity*** - None of us is as good as all of us. Members of the Knights of Columbus all know that - together - we can accomplish far more than any of us could individually. So we stick together ... we support one another. That doesn't mean that we always agree or that there is never a difference of opinion. It does mean that - as a Knight of Columbus - you can count on the support and encouragement of your brother Knights as you work to make life better in your parish and community.

***Fraternity*** - The Venerable Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, in large part, to provide assistance to the widows and children left behind when the family breadwinner died - often prematurely. The Order's top-rated insurance program continues to do this today, as do individual Knights, who last year gave more than 10 million hours of their time to assist sick and/or disabled members and their families. In the Knights of Columbus, we watch out for and take care of one another.

***Patriotism*** - Members of the Knights of Columbus, be they Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, Cubans, Filipinos, Poles, or Dominicans, are patriotic citizens. We are proud of our devotion to God and country, and believe in standing up for both. Whether it's in public or private, the Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nations and are amongst the greatest citizens.



## **DEDICATED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND BUILDING A FUTURE.**

It is through five key areas of service - faith, community, family, youth, and fellowship - that the Knights of Columbus truly makes a difference. As Knights, our faith is our foundation. Dedicated to the Catholic Church's growth and her good works, we support religious outreach and promote vocations in an effort to strengthen the faith that unites us.

As committed as we are to our faith, so are we to building our families and communities. Whether it's through hosting family-focused activities, or supporting community events, Knights serve as valuable role models for other Catholic men, as well as mentors for all children. And so, time and again, Knights have proven that, through fellowship, the support we offer to those in need, our families, and our communities, is magnified.

## **AN ORGANIZATION OF GENERATIONS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

Today, we're looking for the next generation of Knights. Men of character and conviction who are driven by both faith and conscience to do truly meaningful works. And the rewards for members are numerous, from scholarships for our sons and daughters, to being able to participate in one of the leading insurance programs in the country.

But of the countless rewards Knighthood offers, perhaps the most inviting is this: The knowledge that, as a Knight, you can make a difference. Through fearless service. Through heartfelt perseverance. And, above all, through unfaltering fellowship.

## **ST. MARY OF THE GROVE, COUNCIL 11138**

Council 11138 was officially chartered with the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council on June 13, 1993. Under the leadership of the Knights' Regional Insurance Agent, Charlie Hobbs, a handful of members from other area councils conducted a weekend recruiting campaign after each Sunday Mass. Talking with the men of St. Mary Parish, they enlisted more than 27 candidates. Those Charter members crowded into the Parish Center Grotto Room along with our Pastor, Reverend Simeon Gardner and received the first principle of the Knights of Columbus - **charity**. Council 11138 was born and started on a path that has gained many Supreme awards, State recognition and praise from our sister councils in Tampa.

The leaders of our Council over the years have been:

*Charter Grand Knight - 1993-1995 = Jim Cerny*

*Grand Knight - 1995-1997 = Walt Atzert*

*Grand Knight - 1997-1998 = Joe Magliato*

*Grand Knight - 1998-1999 = Dick Hohman*

*Grand Knight - 1999-2000 = George Middlebrook*

*Grand Knight - 2000-2001 = Don McBath*

*Grand Knight - 2001-2002 = Mike Barbone*

*Grand Knight - 2002-2005 = Walt Atzert*

*Grand Knight - 2005-2006 = Jim Whalen*

*Grand Knight - 2006-2007 = Dick Hohman*

*Grand Knight - 2007-2008 = John Sessums*

*Grand Knight - 2008-2009 = Chris Smoke*

*Grand Knight - 2009-2010 = Mike Barbone*

*Grand Knight - 2010- = John Steele*





Council 11138 has been awarded STAR Council 7 times. STAR Council is achieved by attaining goals set by Supreme in the three areas of membership quotas, insurance quotas and at least five activities in the areas of council, community, church, family and youth. Other awards from Supreme include the Founder's Award (insurance), McGivney Award (membership) and Columbian Award (activities and reports submission).

In the Fraternal Year 2004-2005, Council 11138 was awarded the Florida State Council Church Activity for its pro-life project of erecting the Visitation Statue/Memorial on the grounds of St. Mary Parish. This activity was submitted to Supreme Council for recognition throughout the Order.



Over the 17 years since being chartered, Council 11138 members are active in church functions in the roles of usher, cantor, sacristan, lector, choir, and parish council members. Our involvement and support are highlighted in the following areas:

#### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES -**

- === Participate annually in the Order's RSVP (vocation) support for seminarians program. Contributing at least \$500.00 to each identified seminarian. Our most recent support went to Fathers Dominic Corona and Dayan Machado who were ordained into the priesthood on May 15, 2010.
- === Keep Christ in Christmas. Providing religious Christmas card sales to parishioners as a fund raiser for the RSVP program.
- === Providing Catholic Bibles to RCIA members.
- === Provided funding support for the St. Mary Movie Ministry.
- === Raised funds and purchased a Marian Chasuble for St. Mary Parish.

#### **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES -**

- === Group outings have included our most recent collaboration with Fourth Degree Knights in their cruises to the Caribbean, participation in the Knights' Day at the Ballpark, attending Lightning Hockey games.
- === Numerous dinner/dances including the "Red, White and Blue" salute to veterans to foster the ideals of fraternalism. Christmas cookie exchanges and sing-along parties along with pot-luck gatherings for special occasions. .
- === Sponsor the Florida Bloodmobile visits to St. Mary Church achieving more that 148 pints of life-saving blood donated in 2009.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES -**

- === Pro-life - Our council has erected a memorial remembering all the innocent victims of abortion. The statue located in the St. Mary Church gazebo was dedicated on December 8, 2004. It is a 'one of a kind' depiction of The Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth and is a testament to how our Knights came together and raised more than \$17,000 in less than 9 months to achieve our memorial to the unborn.



=== Adopt-a-Road - Council members gather at the call of our leader and pick up trash along the designated roadway; i.e. North Boulevard. Our council has been involved in this program since the first year of existence.

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES -**

=== The council recognizes every month a Knight of the Month and Knight Family of the month for their contributions to the council and Order. Members are presented with a certificate during ceremonials held at business meetings.

=== We remember our deceased brothers by dedicating a memorial Mass in November and praying for them at each council meeting.

=== Joined with our brothers of the Fourth Degree, we have conducted a family picnic and help with the parish's annual family picnic and Marian Festival in January.


=== Conduct a annual Golf Tournament open to male and female golfers. This event has become one of the Council's biggest fund raisers. Attendance has grown over its 13 years of existence.

=== Provide carnations to "Moms" on Mother's Day.


### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES -**

=== Gather school supplies and backpacks for distribution at the Santa Maria Mision.

=== Support Faith Formation Program through funds and/or assisting in providing refreshment during youth activities.



Our council has grown from the 27 Charter members who gathered in the Grotto Room to the more than 124 members of today. In 1995 we made a plea to all members of our parish. That plea called for you to "make your family a part of ours." We are family and always have the front door open for new members. We hope you will consider making Council 11138 a part of your life by joining the Knights of Columbus. We recognize that time is one of the most valuable commodities we have in life. The amount of leisure and free time for the average person has decreased in recent years. Many outside influences are vying for the precious time that we have. If you believe in the importance of investing your time in friendship, the church, and helping others the Knights of Columbus is for you. Everyday the Knights of Columbus provides its members with the opportunity to discover the importance of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism to our country and the world.



If you would like to become a member or would like to know more about the Knights of Columbus, contact our Membership Director, Walt Atzert (963-0305)

["waltatz1945@verizon.net"](mailto:waltatz1945@verizon.net) or the Grand Knight, John Steele (810-3579)

["john.steele@electricsupplyinc.com"](mailto:john.steele@electricsupplyinc.com). Further information can be obtained from the following web-sites.

Supreme Council = "www.kofc.org"

Florida State Council = "www.fsckc.org"

St. Mary Council = [www.marysknights11138.org](http://www.marysknights11138.org)

**You're Invited!**