

# Columbus Crusader

Newsletter of Our Lady of Light Council 10498 in Estero, FL  
Roman Catholic Brothers in Christ, Chartered in 1990



April 2026

Charity, Unity, Fraternity,  
Patriotism

## Officers for 2025-2026 Fraternal Year

Grand Knight: Jim Mendolera  
Deputy GK: Stefan Gehrold  
Chancellor: Robert Dumont  
Recorder: Bob Lehman  
Treasurer: Joe Ercolino  
Advocate: Don Fiscella  
Warden: Ron Molinaro

Inside Guard: Frank Valvo  
Outside Guard: Brent Labreche  
Trustee 1yr: Todd Junker  
Trustee 2yr: Mitch Pappas  
Trustee 3yr: Felix De Los Santos,  
Jr.  
Fin Secretary: Ron Kuhnen

Lecturer: Pat Becker  
Field Agent: John Fischer  
District Deputy: Steve McPhillips  
Chaplain: Fr. Reji Joseph

**Next Month General Membership Meeting:** Tuesday May 5th at 7:00 p.m. (In Parish Center). Food and Refreshments will be provided.



### From the Grand Knight

Hello Brother Knights,

Congratulations to **February Knight of the Month Brother Don Fiscella** and **February Family of the Month Brother Brent Labreche and wife Erin.**

This past month our Council sponsored the Lenten Men's Retreat on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Approximately 25 men attended the retreat and focused on the topic of "Hope." Deacon Chris led the retreat and **Brother Dave Crockett** was the guest speaker. Many thanks to **Deputy Grand Knight Stefan Gehrold** who organized the Retreat. We also had BINGO on March 14<sup>th</sup>. 195 Bingo players attended. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, there was a "Knights Night Out" as we prayed the Stations of the Cross and then met in the Parish Center for the Fish Fry dinner. 25 Knights and families attended. A shout out to **Brother Ron LoFranco** for setting us up in a private section of the Parish Center. The weekend of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> we held the Disability "Tootsie Roll" Drive at the Grande Oaks Publix and collected \$2,498.00 and on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> we collected

\$2,467.00 at the Publix at Pelican Landing. The Pancake Breakfast was on March 29<sup>th</sup> and we served about 175 breakfasts.

It is with great sadness to report the passing of **Brother Knight Bob Bailey** on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Bob Bailey's funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 11:30 AM at OLOL. He was a member of our Council for 16 years and also was an Officer and Recorder for many years. Brother Bob was a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight in Assembly 2542. Also passing on February 22, 2026 was **Brother Knight Gerald Meyers**. A private service was held.

So far we have recruited 12 members to our Council to meet 92% of our goal with 3 more months to recruit more members to reach our goal.

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

**APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt** – 8:00 AM in the rear parking lot.

**APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> – Business Meeting** -7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Food and refreshments will be served.

**APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> – BINGO** – Doors open at 6:00 PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Tickets are available in the Parish Office for \$15.00 or \$18.00 at the door. We will set up at 4:30 PM. Help is needed and always appreciated.

**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>** – Set up for the Pancake Breakfast at 12:00 Noon.

**APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> – Pancake Breakfast** – Served after all the Masses. Help is always need and is greatly appreciated especially after the 10:30 Mass.

**APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> – Planning Meeting** – 7:00 PM in Classroom 302.

**SAVE THE DATE – 4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE LIBERTY BALL** – Saturday, June 20, 2026 in the Parish Center. \$45.00 per person includes appetizers, dinner, drinks, and dancing. All proceeds to benefit Hearts and Homes, Military Chaplains Fund, Wreathes Across America, and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. A *Patriotic Celebration* honoring Knights of Columbus Military Veterans, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and their families. Catering by **Antonio's Scratch Kitchen**. If you would like, please donate wine, liquor, and non-alcoholic items for the raffle baskets. Bring those items to the next Business Meeting. Your donation is appreciated by the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly 2542.

**4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION – MAY 9, 2026** – There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification for all 3rd Degree Knights who would like to move up to 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of Bob Bailey on March 26, 2026. See details in GK article this newsletter. GK Jim also received an email from the daughter of Brother Gerald Meyers that he passed away on February 22, 2026. His daughter said he loved the Knights and was very active in his younger days.

Please pray Brother Bob and Brother Gerald and their families. Continue to pray for all Brother Knights who have passed or are ill.

The Exemplification will take place at St. John the Evangelist Church in Naples, FL. There is no cost to the Candidate as all expenses will be paid by 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly 2542. This is a great opportunity to become a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Sir Knight as there are only 3 -4 Exemplifications during the year throughout the State of Florida and this time it is right here in Southwest Florida. Please let me know if you are interested ASAP as all applications need to be turned in by April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Have a Happy and Blessed Easter to you and your Family.**

God Bless,  
Jim Mendolera, GK, PFN  
Knights of Columbus Council  
10498

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Pray for Brother Joe Ercolino's wife Ann Marie for speedy recovery. Also pray for my wife Bonnie's brother, Terry Bernero, who passed this week and for Bonnie and her family.

Happy Easter

Bob Du Mont  
630-352-1979



**From the Chancellor**  
Hello Brother Knights,

Happy Easter to everyone. Please help the ushers at any of the many Easter services this week. Just ask the lead usher where you can help.



Please pray for the following brothers, family members, and significant others: Tony Almeida, Bob Dumont, Jim Culley, Jackie Erickson (daughter of brother Dave), Jack Horan, Horace “Bud” Fichera, Jes Jensen, Greg Mitchell, Ron Molinaro, Pat Neville, Jim Scialabba



# April

|             |    |             |    |      |          |   |          |    |      |
|-------------|----|-------------|----|------|----------|---|----------|----|------|
| Timothy     | F  | Freeland    |    | 4/1  | Reid     |   | Richards |    | 4/29 |
| Thomas      | J  | Szott       |    | 4/1  | Matthew  | D | Gerenday |    | 4/30 |
| Edward      | L  | Trimner     |    | 4/3  | James    | F | Fabry    |    | 5/1  |
| Daniel      | A  | Kerinuk     | Jr | 4/7  | Paul     | H | Fasy     |    | 5/2  |
| Thomas      | S  | Young       |    | 4/7  | William  | R | Heaslip  | Sr | 5/3  |
| Brian       | A  | Caron       |    | 4/9  | Lawrence | I | Hardy    |    | 5/4  |
| Rich        |    | Nuckols     |    | 4/10 | Jon      | M | Mc Lain  |    | 5/5  |
| Peter       | J  | Spiropoulos |    | 4/10 | Dale     | C | Milcetch |    | 5/6  |
| Michael     | J  | Conley      |    | 4/11 | Thomas   | L | Copmann  |    | 5/7  |
| Bernard     | J  | Reinckens   |    | 4/11 | Herman   | J | Mancini  |    | 5/10 |
| Kent        | A  | Schmitt     |    | 4/11 | Michael  | J | Brown    |    | 5/12 |
| Thomas      | D  | Yavorsky    | Sr | 4/11 | Peter    | A | Di Paolo |    | 5/12 |
| Timothy     | J. | Sheedy      |    | 4/14 | Duane    | G | Tebbe    |    | 5/12 |
| Christopher | W  | Cauley      |    | 4/15 | Lee      | D | Jones    |    | 5/15 |
| Martin      | J  | Barrett     |    | 4/18 |          |   |          |    |      |
| Albert      | J  | Marcenkus   |    | 4/25 |          |   |          |    |      |
| Michael     | S  | Callahan    |    | 4/26 |          |   |          |    |      |
| Mario       | F  | Jacome      |    | 4/27 |          |   |          |    |      |

In Case of Death: At the death of a Brother Knight, notify the Grand Knight or the next in charge, who will then contact the family and offer sympathy and help from the Council. The Council member contacting the family should ask whether a wake will be held and if so, whether the family would like the Council to do a rosary service. If a Mass will be offered, the family should be asked if they would like a resolution of condolence to be presented. Any ceremonial presentation requested should be done only with permission of the clergy. If the deceased Brother is a 4th Degree member, the Grand Knight will notify the Insurance Field Agent and the Faithful Navigator of the Assembly. Grand Knight: Jim Mendolera. Email: [jmendolera323@yahoo.com](mailto:jmendolera323@yahoo.com). Telephone (239) 390-0346  
Please visit our website at <http://www.kofccouncil10498.org/> for additional information and upcoming events.  
Please contact our Financial Secretary Ronald Kuhnen (715) 215-0408, [kuhnen10498@gmail.com](mailto:kuhnen10498@gmail.com), to make updates to your personal profile (change of address, change or added phone, email address, etc.)  
To add or delete from the prayer list above, or correct birthday and/or name please contact Patrick Becker.  
E-mail: [patbecker50@yahoo.com](mailto:patbecker50@yahoo.com).