

# Columbus Crusader

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



March 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 April 7th at 7:00 p.m. (In Parish Center). Food and Refreshments will be provided.

This past month our Council hosted the John Denver Concert to a sell-out crowd of 265 people. We also had BINGO with 242 attendees.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the **Silver Rose** was transported to OLOL by the Knights on Bikes at the 3:00 PM Mass. Over 950 parishioners witnessed the placement of the **Silver Rose** on the altar by **Brother Brent Labreche**. A prayer service was held at 4:00 PM and then the **Silver Rose** was transported to St. Agnes in Naples by the Knights on Bikes. 26 parishes and 33 Councils from Region 5 in Florida participated in the **Silver Rose Program** in 12 days. Our Region was the busiest Region in the United States that participated in the **Silver Rose Program**.

Also, on February 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> weekend, our Council collected for the Disability “Tootsie Roll” Drive after all the Masses. Our Brother

Knights collected \$2,094.00. We also had the “Tootsie Roll” Drive on the weekend of February 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> at Walmart and collected \$2,988.00. We will be collecting for the Disability Drive on the weekends of March 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> at Publix Supermarkets. Sign up sheets will be forthcoming.

We have recruited 12 members this Fraternal Year meeting 92% of our goal with 4 more months left to reach our goal.

### MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS....

**MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> – Business Meeting –** 7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Food and refreshments will be provided.

**MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> – Men’s Retreat –** 8:30 AM – Noon in the Parish Center. No Cost. RSVP to **DGK Stefan Gehrold** 239-383-2101 or [dr\\_st\\_gehrold@yahoo.de](mailto:dr_st_gehrold@yahoo.de) Breakfast will be served.



### From the Grand Knight

Hello Brother Knights,

Welcome to new **Brother Knight Paolo Cavazzini** and **Brother Louis Salera**, a transfer from Westhampton, New York.

Congratulations to **January Knight of the Month Ron Kuhnen** and **January Family of the Month Robert and Ellen Reynolds**.

**MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> – BINGO-** Doors open at 6:00 PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Tickets available in the Parish Office for \$15.00 or \$18.00 at the door. We will set up at 4:00 PM. Help is always needed.

**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> – Knights Night Out** – We will meet in the church and pray the Stations of the Cross at 5:30 PM and then attend the Lenten Fish Fry in the Parish Center. We will have reserved tables for our Council. Please contact **Brother Joe Ercolino** at 561-801-0110 or [amjercolino@gmail.com](mailto:amjercolino@gmail.com) Bring your family and guests.



**From the Chancellor**  
Hello Brother Knights,

We have many events coming up with Lent and Easter. Please check our Grand Knight's list of events in his article. Thank you to everyone who helped on Ash Wednesday and with the diocesan

**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>-22<sup>ND</sup> – Disability Drive** – 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM at Publix Supermarkets. Sign up sheet will be coming soon.

**MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> – Planning Meeting** – 7:00 PM in Classroom 302.

**MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>-29<sup>TH</sup> – Disability Drive** – 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM at Publix Supermarkets. Sing up sheet will be coming soon.

**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>** – Set up for Pancake Breakfast at Noon.

**MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> – Pancake Breakfast** – Served after all the Masses. Help is always needed and

annual Rite of Election held on February 22 at Our Lady of Light. There were 47 Parishes represented in the Rite with 434 catechumens (individuals who are not yet baptized) and 638 candidates (already-baptized Christians preparing for confirmation and First Eucharist), as well as 600 sponsors.

Soon the Easter week schedule will be out. Please help the ushers if you can, especially help will be needed to pass out palms on Palm Sunday.

greatly appreciated especially after the 10:30 AM Mass.

**SAVE THE DATE** – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Liberty Ball on Saturday, June 20, 2026 in the Parish Center.

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

*“Like the shepherds, we can be filled by the Holy Spirit with a holy fear – with wonder and awe at the greatness and glory of our God and of his only-begotten Son.”*

We have some good news. Both Brothers Jes Jensen and Tom Wolfe are home and recovering. Please continue to pray for them.

Continue to pray for Brother Frank Valvo's wife, Connie, and for all Brother Knights who are sick, for their recovery. Also continue to pray for all Brother Knights who have passed.

Mary Pray for us.

Bob Du Mont

630-352-1979



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



# March

Frank	P	Ragonese		3/1	Timothy	F	Freeland		4/1
Thomas	J	Costin		3/3	Thomas	J	Szott		4/1
Kenneth	J	Corr		3/5	Edward	L	Trimner		4/3
Robert	J	Dumont		3/5	Daniel	A	Kerinuk	Jr	4/7
Joseph	W	Boss	Jr	3/10	Thomas	S	Young		4/7
Jeremy	M	Brown		3/11	Brian	A	Caron		4/9
Edward	J	Riley	Jr	3/13	Rich		Nuckols		4/10
Dave	H	Crawford		3/16	Peter	J	Spiropoulos		4/10
Joseph	K	Lamb		3/16	Michael	J	Conley		4/11
James	W	Devine		3/17	Bernard	J	Reinckens		4/11
Martin	N	Nwodo		3/18	Kent	A	Schmitt		4/11
David	E	Rossi		3/22	Thomas	D	Yavorsky	Sr	4/11
James	J	Mendolera		3/23	Timothy	J.	Sheedy		4/14
Anthony	M	Cantone		3/24	Christopher	W	Cauley		4/15
Dustin		Delago		3/25					
Matthew	Y	Solis		3/26					
Ralph	M	Abate		3/30					
Vince	G	Perfetto		3/30					

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).