

Knights of Columbus

Goleta Valley Council 5300
St. Raphael's Church, Goleta, California
Newsletter
December 2025/January 2026

December 1, 2025	3 rd & 4 th Degree Officer's Mtg.	Conference Rm. - 7:00 pm
December 7, 2025	Pancake Breakfast CANCELED	
December 8, 2025	3 rd Degree Business Meeting	Parish Hall - 7:00 pm
December 13, 2025	Council Christmas Dinner	Parish Hall-6:00-9:00 pm
December 15, 2025	4 th Degree Mtg. CANCELED	
December 25, 2025	CHRISTMAS	
January 1, 2026	NEW YEARS DAY	
January 5, 2026	3 rd & 4 th Degree Officer's Mtg.	Conference Rm.-7:00 pm
January 11, 2026	Pancake Breakfast	
January 12, 2026	3 rd Degree Business Meeting	Parish Hall-7:00 pm
January 17, 2026	4 th Degree Exemplification	Parish Hall-10:00 AM
January 19, 2026	4 th Degree Business Meeting	Parish Hall-7:00 pm
January 31, 2026	"Faith In Action" Men's Retreat	Parish Hall-10:00am 2:00pm

From Mother Teresa's book *Do Something Beautiful for God*, December 16

Holiness grows fast where there is kindness. I have never heard of kind souls going astray. The world is lost for want of sweetness and kindness.

Council 5300 Christmas Party – Council 5300 and Assy 044 (4th Degree) will have their Christmas party on December 13th, starting at 6:00 pm, in the Parish Hall. This year's event will have a band to provide the entertainment. Chefs Jim Bradbury and Ron Guilliams will have a choice of tri-tip and planked salmon for the main course. The cost is \$25 dollars per person and tickets must be purchased or obtained (in the case of the widows) in advance. Tri-tip, or salmon, are to be selected when the tickets are obtained. Semi-formal dress is encouraged, 4th degree members in "dress uniform" would be nice. Tickets are now available from Mark Vampola, 805-708-2631, Chris Arnoult 805-252-0971, Rich Scholl 805-683-8874 and Jack Turney 805-252-1985.

Pancake Breakfast - The Council 5300 pancake breakfasts are typically held on the 2nd Sunday of each month and the next one is on January 11th. These are one of our major fund raisers, helping to support our philanthropic efforts to the ministries of the Parish.

4th Degree Exemplification – A rare opportunity to become a 4th Degree member, of Junipero Serra Assembly 044, will be available to council members who have achieved the 3rd Degree and would like to complete the Patriotic 4th Degree. This is the degree that provides the Honor Guard for the local confirmations, 4th Degree members funeral masses, and polling place workers on Election Day. Normally these exemplifications are done in the Visalia area, or in the southland somewhere. This exemplification is being hosted by Santa Barbara area Junipero Serra Assembly 044 at St. Raphael’s Parish Hall, Saturday, January 17th. Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator Mark Vampola, 805-708-2631, is available to answer your questions.

Planned Parent Prayer Vigils - A Catholic group of people, organized by Cindy Hagen, are having prayer vigils on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 am across the street from Planned Parenthood, 518 Garden Street, Santa Barbara. If you can spend an hour on one of those days praying the Holy Rosary and the Devine Mercy Chaplet, plan to spend it in the company of other parishioners in front of Planned Parenthood. For more information please call Cindy Hagen at 805-636-5950.

Insurance Agent – The Ron Sandoval Insurance Agency is currently the agency covering the Santa Barbara/Goleta area. The latest field agent servicing this area is: Jehan Fernando, FICF, telephone number 805-231-3675. His email address is Jehan.fernando@kofc.org.

Up Coming Birthdays:

December		January	
John Tevenan	1	Jim Neary	1
Msgr. Stephen Downes	8	Jose Meza	2
Paul Coyne	9	Rev. Jeffery Newell	3
Joseph Bauer	22	Daniel Johansen	3
Ruben Perez	24	Marvin Giron	13
Jesus	25	James McCann	25
Joseph Peña	28	Jose Borrayo	31
Roy Hapeman	29		

Saint for December, Blessed Charles de Foucauld, *Priest and Hermit (1858-1916), Dec. 1st*

Born in to an aristocratic family in Strasbourg, France, Charles was orphaned at the age of six, raised by his devout grandfather, rejected the Catholic faith as a teenager, and joined the French army. Inheriting a great deal of money from his grandfather, Charles went to Algeria with his regiment, but not without his mistress, Mini.

When he refused to give her up, he was dismissed from the army. He later reenlisted in Algeria after he left Mimi. He resigned from the army when he was refused permission to make a scientific exploration of nearby Morrocco. With the help of a Jewish rabbi, Charles disguised himself as a Jew and in 1883 began a one year exploration that he recorded in a book that was well received.

Inspired by the Jews and Muslims whom he met when he returned to France, he resumed the practice of his Catholic faith in 1886. He joined a Trappist monastery in Ardeche, France, and

later transferred to one in Akbes, Syria. He left it and 1897 began to work as a gardener and sacristan for the Poor Clares nuns in Nazareth and later in Jerusalem. He returned to France and was ordained a priest in 1901.

Later that year he returned to Beni-Abbes, Morocco, intending to found a monastic religious community in North Africa, offering hospitality to Christians, Muslims, Jews, or people with no religion. He lived a peaceful, hidden life but attracted no companions.

A former army comrade invited him to live among the Tuareg people in Algeria. Charles learned their language enough to write a Tuareg-French and French-Tuareg dictionary and to translate the gospels into Tuareg. In 1905 he came to Tamanrasset, where he lived the rest of his life. His two-volume collection of Tuareg poetry was published after his death.

In early 1919 he visited France and established an association of laypeople who pledged to live by the Gospels. His return to Tamanrasset was welcomed by the Tuareg. In 1915 he wrote to Louis Massignon: "The love of God, the love for one's neighbor....All religion is found there... How to get to that point? Not in a day since it is perfection itself: it is the goal we must always aim for, which we must unceasingly try to reach and that we will only attain in heaven."

The outbreak of World War I led to attacks on the French in Algeria. Seized in a raid by another tribe, Charles and two French soldiers coming to visit him were shot to death on December 1, 1916.

Five religious congregations, associations, and spiritual institutes (Little Brothers of Jesus, Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Little Sisters of Jesus, Little Brothers of the Gospel, and Little Sisters of the Gospel) draw inspiration from the peaceful, largely hidden yet hospitable life that characterized Charles. He was beatified on November 13, 2005.

Saint for January : *Anthony, Abbot (251-356), January 17*

The life of Anthony will remind many people of St. Francis of Assisi. At twenty, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message "Go, sell what you have, and give to {the} poor" (Mark 10:21b) that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony's life was spent in solitude. He saw the world completely covered with snares and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification, and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

At fifty-four, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again like Francis, he had great fear of "stately buildings and well-laden tables."

At sixty, he hoped to be a martyr in a renewed Roman persecution at 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At eighty-eight, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church centuries to recover. "The mule kicking over the altar" denied the divinity of Christ.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig, and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil—the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for the book of nature over the printed word.

Anthony died in solitude at age 105.

The above are excerpts taken from *Saint of the Day: the Definitive Guide to the Saints*, by Leonard Foley

Please keep in your prayers the following:

Frank and Cay Donohoe
 Repose of the soul of Mark Vampola’s father, Alfred.
 Richard David Cabrera, nephew of Francisco Cabrera
 Michael Mina and his wife Diana Mina
 Jose Meza and wife Maria
 Bob Marks
 Rich Scholl and Rich Scholl’s wife, Ginny, and daughter, Erin, who are having some medical issues.
 Catherine DiMauro, sister of Charlie DiMauro
 Norma DiMauro, grandmother of Charlie DiMauro, now in hospice care
 Earl Pugh
 Carol McLafferty (widow of PGK Bill McLafferty)
 Sr. Teresa Meza, sister of SK Jose Meza

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