



Q4 2025 Newsletter

District Master's Message

Worthy Brother Knights and Faithful Sirs of the Georgia District,

On behalf of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, Supreme Master Michael McCusker, Supreme Board of Directors, Vice Supreme Master Daniel Barton, State Deputy Kevin York, District Friar Fr. Chris Hassel, District Marshal Ed O'Connor, District Marshal Pat McMahon, and on behalf of all your Regional Marshals, welcome to our Fall District Newsletter.



Thanks to your dedication and inspired work, this Fraternal Year has gotten off to a great start. Through your leadership, the Georgia District continues to be a leader in the DeSoto Province. I would like to thank *Immaculate Conception Assembly 173* and *Archbishop John F Donoghue Atlanta Assembly 3313* for hosting our first two Exemplifications of Patriotism. In this year of the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree, the Georgia District exceeded Supreme Master's 125/125 challenge to Districts, to record 125 candidates at a single Exemplification. The total number for the November Exemplification at the Cathedral of Christ the King was **135** candidates. **Well done Faithful Sirs.**

The Georgia District had **12** Assemblies participate in the Savannah, August Exemplification, and **28** Assemblies participated in the Atlanta, November Exemplification. Three of the Savannah Assemblies also had candidates at the Atlanta Exemplification. This means **37 out of the 46** Georgia Assemblies participated toward the growth of the Fourth Degree.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the many Sir Knights who served as Honor Guard escorts for our candidates. From your Assembly Color Corps, the increasing number of Faithful Sirs who contribute their time and service at our Exemplifications is commendable. Your efforts have made the Exemplification experience better for our new Sir Knights, family, and friends.

2024/2025 Fraternal Year Star Assembly Awards

Immaculate Conception Assembly 173
Patrick Walsh Assembly 174
Bishop Gross Assembly 176
Fr. Peter Whelan Assembly 178
John F. Kennedy Assembly 180
Archbishop Thomas A Donnellan Assembly 2148
Fr. Gerald Whalen Assembly 2239
St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly 3085
Good Shepherd Assembly 3164
Santa Maria Assembly 3185
Coweta Assembly 3199
Archbishop John F. Donoghue Assembly 3313
St. John Paul II Assembly 3355
St. Michael The Archangel Assembly 3410
Fr. Walter L DiFrancesco Assembly 3493
Our Lady of Guadalupe Assembly 3714
Fr. Roger J Plante M.S Assembly 3770
Fr. Vincent Capodanno Assembly 3799
St. Joachim Assembly 3923

Congratulations to our 19 Star Assemblies. I hope to have the awards for distribution at the District Biannual Meeting, **April 18th, 2026**. Today, **36** Assemblies in Georgia are within range of achieving full quota and completing one step toward Star Assembly. As leaders, each of you can achieve this goal. If you would like to know where your Assembly stands today, just send me an email.

Finally, I see our Assembly's Color Corps growing and getting involved in service. I'm especially appreciative for the Assemblies who continue to answer the Mutual Aid call to serve. I encourage Commanders to meet with your neighboring Assembly Commanders in a social. Share with each other your upcoming events and be committed to assist each other as best you can. Consider inviting your newest Sir Knights to join your Assembly Color Corps. Participating in the Color Corps is the best way for a Sir Knight to continue his journey in service to Church and Community.

Vivat Jesus!
Fraternally

S.K Arnie Terrell
Master of Georgia - DeSoto Province

A late friend and brother knight once told me a tale of how as a young man in Memphis he worked in a pet shop. One evening, as he was about to close up, several Cadillacs pulled into the parking lot. A dozen or so men poured out of the cars and knocked on the door, begging for permission to enter. Acquiescing, my friend suddenly found himself face-to-face with a young man named Elvis Presley, who looked at him and asked, "Hey, man. You got any monkeys?"

It so happened that there were two in the shop. Payment was made and out the door they went. As my friend Francis finished his story, he thoughtfully remarked, "I always worried about those two little monkeys and what became of them. I can only imagine that they ended up in the Jungle Room at Graceland."

Long ago, monkeys were caught by hunters in a most ingenious way. Small holes were drilled into dried out, hollow coconuts. Holes just big enough to receive the monkey's hand. Chains were then attached to the coconut with an eye bolt. The coconuts were then strewn about the jungle floor and sugar cubes were dropped in the holes. The monkeys would come along, smell the sugar, reach in and grab the sugar cubes.

With their hands now forming a fist, they could no longer retrieve their hand from the coconut. In essence, freedom was in their own hands. All they had to do was let go.

Most would not and some ended up with Elvis and his buddies.

As 2025 nears its conclusion, we should ask ourselves: Where do we as Sir Knights have our fists stuck in a coconut, holding onto the past or clinging to outdated or unproductive ways of managing assemblies, districts or provinces? Where are opportunities to grow that go unnoticed because we only see what we want instead of what's possible? Where can we better engage our communities and parishes by seeking new challenges, instead of doing the same things over and over again? Where can we become more appealing to the young men who are quickly populating the ranks of the Knights of Columbus at a historic rate - who only see the Fourth Degree as old and out of touch? Where are we holding on to what entraps us instead of embracing what God has planned for us in our next one-hundred-and-twenty-five years?

Let's use what's left of 2025 to start planning for 2026. Let's dedicate ourselves to freely moving forward for the Good of the Order. The choice is in our hands.

Vivat Jesus!

Michael McCusker
Supreme Master



Fellow Sir Knights,

I pray you are doing well and that your Assemblies are good. Last month in November we remembered those who have died as we prayed for the souls of the Faithful Departed, especially those Fellow Sir Knights who have died. This month we enter into the Season of Advent, a time to await and prepare for the coming of the Lord at the end of time and in the birth of Our Savior. However, this past month of November we had two things that we should have reflected on as Sir Knights.

The first was Veterans Day. Many of you, like myself, have served in our nation's Armed Forces during times of conflict. Serving in the military is a sacrifice of oneself. There are many moments where a Veteran has missed important family events or time with friends, missed holidays, placed themselves in harm's way, or suffered injuries (seen and unseen) in service to our nation. Living out Patriotism in a very real and concrete way through their time in the Armed Forces. This example of Patriotism is something we should reflect on in our own lives (whether we are a veteran or not). The Fourth Degree calls us to live this out as a Sir Knight each day of our lives. ***How is the example of a veteran's patriotism shown or lived in our lives?***

The second was Thanksgiving. A time in our country, to come together with family or loved ones to eat (maybe too much) and watch some games. Both good things to do, but at the heart of it we should make sure the deeper meaning is not lost amidst the heaps of food and TV, the thanks we should be giving to God. Thanksgiving is a time, especially as Sir Knights, to give thanks to God for that which enjoy in our country, our community, our parish, and our families. **Remember that God is at the center of ALL that we do in our lives. As Sir Knights are we giving Thanks To God, for what we have received? For the blessings and freedoms we have in our country? For the blessings God bestows on us? Then are we passing that on as Sir Knights, by living it faithfully each day?**

May we reflect on these as we continue to live as Sir Knights in our family, community, and country. Know of my prayers for your Assemblies, for you, and for your families.

May God bless you and the Virgin of Guadalupe intercede for you each day!

God bless,
Fr. Chris Hassel
District Friar



Upcoming Exemplification

March 7th, 2026

Honoring Rev. Fr. Jacob N. Almeter, FN Glenn M. Gaines FDD, PGK, PFN, and Jimmie L. Stevens PGK, PFN. Hosted by John F. Kennedy Assembly 180, the Georgia Degree Team & District Master Arnie Terrell

Schedule of Events:

11am: Honor Guard Reporting/Training

11am – 12pm: Registration

12:00 – 12:30pm: Candidate preparation

12:30 - 2:00pm: Exemplification

2:00 - 3:00pm: Luncheon

The Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church

720 Telfair St, Augusta, GA 30901

The deadline for all forms is 10 days prior.

Please reach out to District Chief Marshal Ed O'Connor with any additional questions.



Bi-annual Meeting of the Fourth Degree

As we approach our upcoming **Bi-annual Meeting for the District of Georgia on Saturday, April 18th, 2026 at St. Benedict Catholic Church**, we encourage each assembly to prioritize sending your delegates to this important time together. This meeting is a valuable opportunity for members to engage in discussions, review district activities, and help shape the direction of our Order for the coming years. Each assembly is asked to send at least one delegate to represent their interests and ensure their voice is heard in the decision-making process.

Your participation is crucial for the continued growth and success of our district. We look forward to seeing all of our assemblies well represented at this event.

Sir Knights in Action





The Diocese of Savannah celebrated its 175th Anniversary. Bishop Parkes has criss-crossed the Diocese on a Pilgrimage to honor the occasion. His pilgrimage started with a Corpus Christi Mass and Eucharistic Procession in Augusta. The official celebration occurred at the Cathedral Basilica of St John the Baptist. And his pilgrimage finished with a Jubilee Gathering, attended by over 2,500 pilgrims in Warner Robins. **An Honor Guard from all of the Assemblies in the Diocese joined him on his pilgrimage.**

A 30th Anniversary Mass for St. Marguerite D'Youville was celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer. **Assembly 2475** provided an Honor Guard with assistance from other 4th degree Color Corps members from around the state, District Master Arnie Terrell, and State Treasurer Mike Basak who were present to help celebrate the Anniversary.



On Friday, November 21, 2025, the Knights of Columbus **Patrick Walsh Assembly 174** conducted its annual Memorial Mass honoring the Sir Knights that were called to their eternal rest. The Mass was celebrated at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church. The mass was concelebrated by Reverend Father Chris Hassel, Reverend Father Mark Ross, and Reverend Father Andrew Emenike assisted by SK Deacon Jesse Murga.



Eight Sir Knights from Patrick Walsh Assembly 174 who past recently were remembered and memorialized on a chalice. Thanks to all who participated in and attended the memorial Mass. Special thanks to FN Brian Musha, DD Ketih Wagner, MC David Mills, Cantor Carie Murga, and PFN Mark Huebner and the Honor Guard for their work in making the event meaningful and a success.

Georgia Knights of Columbus are proud to support the Fall Games of Special Olympics Georgia! The Opening Ceremonies were spectacular with our Georgia Knights serving as the color guard ushering in the athletes and State Secretary, Paul Zock, ushering in the torch and lighting of the cauldron, and ending with fireworks and a dance party.





Knights from around the State of Georgia participated in a number of different Veterans Day Parades including the Georgia Veterans Day Parade down Peachtree St., the Douglasville Veterans Day Parade, and the Ellijay Veterans Day parade.



On November 23rd, the Cathedral of Christ the King celebrated the Feast of Christ the King. **Archbishop John F Donoghue Atlanta Assembly 3313** provided an honor guard that added a nice touch to the Cathedral's feast day celebration. Special thanks to a few members of Assembly 3355 who were also in attendance.