

Saint Francis Solanus



OCTOBER 2020

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Living out the Principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

For parishioner John Veith, Financial Secretary for the Knights of Columbus Council 583, the opportunity to participate in the active discipleship nurtured in our local branch of the organization is one that he really appreciates.

"The Knights of Columbus gives you great pleasure in defending your faith, helping out the community, and supporting a lot of different organizations," John says. "It also helps you get involved in a lot of national and international efforts."

Founded in 1882, the Knights of Columbus began with the goal of bringing together men with a shared Catholic faith, while assisting the many families that were left fatherless by the dangerous working conditions in local factories. To this day, charity, unity and fraternity remain the three central principles of the organization.

Our Knights of Columbus Council 583 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at their clubhouse on South 36th Street. Officers meet every fourth Tuesday to plan the general meetings. With men from all local parishes welcome to join the council, we have over 780 participating members.

Our council consistently hosts many great fundraising events for our community, the largest of which is the annual barbeque and carnival. Hosted on the Knights of Columbus grounds, this four-day event draws in tens of thousands of people each year. The delicious barbeque beef is the star dish of the event, but fish is also typically available on Friday, and chicken on Saturday.



The Knights of Columbus Council 583 hosts a barbeque and carnival each year.

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A Letter From Our Pastor

How Can I Give To

Dear Parishioners,

In these times, it is helpful to begin the day with the question, "How can I give today?"

As we continue to do our best to live stewardship during these difficult times, I have been thinking of ways for us all to share our Time, Talent and Treasure with our family, our parish, our community, and even ourselves. So, I would like to share with you my list of 10 ways to be a giver in these days that challenge us to be upbeat, or even to remain on an even keel. And, as we give effectively, we will spread and experience joy.



mean, foolish and hurtful actions are flooding them with a vengeance. If others have forgiven us, if God and the Church have forgiven us, if we would forgive someone who did to us what we cannot forgive ourselves for, well then, what good reason is there to withhold forgiving ourselves?

1. **Give encouragement.** Many folks are struggling as they adjust to a new normal, which keeps changing — but they are moving along, trying to do what is right and good. Encouragement helps us all to keep making good decisions and to give and find zest.
2. **Give gratitude.** Be grateful to God, to family and friends, and to professionals who are helping us through the pandemic. Find a way to express gratitude — maybe send a hand-written note.
3. **Forgive others.** We are all victims in one way or another. People who have hurt us are usually victims themselves. Holding on to the hurt or harboring resentment does no one any good. Start forgiving by praying for the one who has hurt you or a loved one. This is a good time to mend fences by expressing care and the desire to see beyond the rift.
4. **Forgive yourself.** During these days, many people report that memories of their own

5. **Give the gift of volunteer time.** There are many needs out there for folks to share their time and

talents in one way or another. We know this in our Church, our neighborhood, our places of work. In our bulletin, we regularly invite folks to volunteer, to make another person's life healthier and safer. Seldom do we volunteer as a solitary person — we can make great friends among our fellow volunteers.

6. **Give financial support.** These, of course, are uncertain times. Many charitable organizations are offering assistance to those in need. Our Church and parish face the challenge of managing our budget while there are less people attending Mass and giving less of their treasure. There is a joy and a sense of peace when we give, when we trust God to provide enough for our well-being, and when we can see the good our generosity and sacrifices are accomplishing.
7. **Give the gift of self-care.** Balance exercise, healthy meals, rest, staying in touch with family and friends, intellectual stimulation, finding ways to enjoy life with virtual assistance, staying safe and keeping others

day?

safe. Find ways to enjoy nature. Self-care is important so we can be our best self in our relationships with others and as we encounter life's challenges.

8. **Give time to listen to God.** Trust that God has words of encouragement, direction, clarification and peace for us. We pray speaking to God from our hearts, but also by listening to the Divine Message which penetrates our hearts.
9. **Give the gift of petitionary prayer.** Petitionary prayer works — the result is not always that our will is done, but petitionary prayer leads us to look for God, to trust in God, and to compassionately put those for whom we pray in the hands of God. Petitionary prayer unites us with those for whom we are praying and those who are also praying. We give a great gift when we pray for someone — we have the joy of bringing our hopes to God and feeling the Divine Presence.
10. **Give the gift of the desire to give.** If we start every day with the desire and the question “How can I give today?” we will have a spirit of dedication and build on the joy of giving day by day as we gradually work our way through this pandemic and all the fears, issues and problems which have surfaced.

Let us trust the joy of giving as we move forward.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Steven Arisman
Pastor

Students Demonstrate Wonderful Stewardship Example as School Year Gets Underway

With COVID-19, it's certainly been an unusual year for everyone, but especially for our students. Two of our St. Francis students, Leah and Claire, set up a lemonade stand to raise money for school. As Leah points out, with COVID impacting how students receive their education, “you will need to buy lots of things!”

Thank you, Leah and Claire, for your wonderful and thoughtful example of stewardship in action!



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT *Our*

This has most certainly been a trying and unusual year, as we have navigated through uncharted waters. In the face of great uncertainty or difficulty, it is easy to become complacent. Yet, this is not what God calls us to do. We are called to live stewardship as a way of life — in the good, bad or uncertain times. In moments of trial, God raises up saints!

Our Stewardship Renewal reminds us that God's gifts never stop being poured out. In turn, we never should have reason to stop thanking Him. So, let us take this Stewardship Renewal as an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God in the midst of our rapidly changing world.

*Commitment Weekend is
October 17-18. Don't forget to
return your Commitment Card!*

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Everyone should be able to check the boxes to commit to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days or to view the Masses online during the crisis. In addition to those commitments, try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God. We recognize that the current crisis may impact your ability to carry out your commitments. Know the Lord sees what is in your heart and is pleased with your best efforts.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Francis Solanus.

Issues like my age, physical limitations, and the current crisis prevent me from being active in the parish. Should I still turn in a Commitment Card?

Yes! The first section of the card — Stewardship of Time — is the most important because it allows you to make commitments to prayer. Even if you can't join a ministry or make it to Mass on Sunday, you can still pray for our parish. Your spiritual support has tremendous value in the eyes of God.

One time I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your Commitment Card! We have a very good plan to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

How much should I give?

Your gift is entirely dependent on how much God has given you. At St. Francis Solanus, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?

While our pledge is not a "contract," we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change — if you lose your job, for instance — then the amount of money you give the Church will change, too. Likewise if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Using your envelopes is a good way

Annual Stewardship Renewal

to see which Sundays you missed. You can also make your gift electronically through our Online Giving portal. Visit stfrancissolanus.com/giving/ to find out more!

Even before the crisis, I didn't go to Mass frequently. Why turn in a Commitment Card?

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday once the crisis is over, and until then, commit to viewing the Mass online each week, then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!

What happens if I don't return my Commitment Card?

We will send you a reminder letter to encourage participation. Please make every effort you can to participate. Our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes St. Francis Solanus a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.

Stewardship Starts at Home



Francis Solanus Stewardship Renewal



Every parish family receives a special "Stewardship Package" that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.

Stewardship Starts at Home



St. Francis Solanus
2020 Stewardship Commitment Card

First & Last Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Spouse: First & Last Name _____

Spouse: Phone _____

Spouse: Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please bring this card to Mass on
Oct 17/18, or mail using the
envelope provided. Thanks and God bless you!

Are You Getting FORMED?

Online Platform Offers

In the past year, technology has allowed us to stay connected and continue learning in more ways than ever before, in the midst of a global pandemic. Our kids had class via video chat and educational websites, we watched presentations on Zoom, and even had access to virtual tours of many world-famous zoos and museums. Whether you've been on your phone, tablet, laptop or TV, there is more content than ever before, available right at your fingertips. And yet, sometimes it's still easy to spend hours scrolling the news or let time slip away binge watching your favorite show on Netflix. But what would your life, and your relationship with God, look like if you spent some of that time online learning about your faith?

For St. Francis Solanus parishioners and school families who want to grow closer to God, it's easier than ever — through our parish subscription to FORMED.org.

FORMED is a service — think “Netflix for Catholics” — that allows users unlimited access to



Mrs. Julie Radel, a teacher at St. Francis Solanus School, uses FORMED.org with her second-grade students.

online video, audio and electronic book content, wherever you are, 24/7. From an audio Bible and studies on prayer, to movies about the lives of the saints, FORMED has something for everyone, of all ages — those who've been studying the faith for years, and those who've just become curious about Who Jesus is. Whether

you're looking for something to listen to on your commute to work, wanting to access more Catholic reading materials, or are looking for more positive content for your family movie night, FORMED is a tool that allows you to grow in your faith, for free, on your own schedule.

“During the pandemic, with so many churches closed to parishioners, FORMED [became] a bastion of hope and inspiration for many,” says Mike Holbrook, Director of Religious Education. “FORMED is an amazing resource for all things Catholic ‘on demand.’ It is valuable because it allows Catholics to learn more about their faith and their relationship with Jesus through movies, documentaries, audio books, kids/youth videos and studies, right at home.”

Our FORMED subscription is paid for by the parish, and is absolutely free to those who would like to access it.

For those who are curious about the Catholic faith, but hesitant to join a formal class,

“FORMED is an amazing resource for all things Catholic ‘on demand.’

It is valuable because it allows Catholics to learn more about their faith and their relationship with Jesus through movies, documentaries, audio books, kids/youth videos and studies, right at home.”

— MIKE HOLBROOK, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fantastic Opportunities to Grow in Faith



FORMED is a service — think “Netflix for Catholics” — that allows users unlimited access to online video, audio and electronic book content, wherever you are, 24/7.

FORMED can also be a great, no-pressure way for them to learn. Covering a variety of different topics, from sacraments and the saints, to Scripture studies, you can find resources related to almost anything Catholic.

“It’s also a great source of information for non-Catholics who might be entertaining thoughts of becoming Catholic but who

don’t want to commit to the RCIA program yet,” Mike says. “Because of the exhaustive work that the Augustine Institute has put into FORMED, people at all stages of Catholic, spiritual growth, can benefit from its content.”

And FORMED is not just for adults. One of our teachers at St. Francis Solanus School, Mrs. Julie Radel, uses it with her second-graders.

“I used FORMED in our classroom to enhance religion classes,” Mrs. Radel says. “The second-graders’ favorite selection is the Brother Francis video series. Brother Francis explains parts of the Catholic faith in a manner that appeals to young children.

“We were even able to use Brother Francis on FORMED during our remote learning days,” she adds. “My second-graders asked to watch the episodes.”

For many of us, as Catholics, whether we were raised in the faith or recently joined the Church, it can be easy to become complacent in deepening our knowledge of the faith. Mike encourages all parishioners to consider taking advantage of the many programs available on FORMED.org, to foster an awareness of the depth and riches of our tradition.

“It’s easy to drift away from studying the faith,” Mike says. “I really hope that those who use FORMED gain a better appreciation for Catholicism, why we do what we do, and how to better defend it.”

To access the resources available on FORMED for free, as part of our parish subscription, please visit www.FORMED.org and click “Sign-Up.” Select “I belong to a Parish or Organization,” and type in “St. Francis Solanus” then click on “St. Francis Solanus” from the list. Enter your name and email, and start looking for content that will help you grow in your faith and relationship with God.

St. Francis Solanus

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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The Knights of Columbus *continued from front cover*

Money brought in by the various Knights of Columbus fundraisers has benefited countless organizations over the years.

"It's rewarding to help people in the community and make donations to different schools and colleges, food pantries, and coats for kids," John says. "We also give out three scholarships to Quincy University, four or five to Catholic grade schools, and one to the Catholic high school each year."

Each Knight has a unique story about what first brought him to the organization. John joined when he was

living in Mount Sterling after seeing how much his uncle enjoyed being a part of this rewarding organization.

Knowing the great blessing that participation in the Knights of Columbus has been in his life, John would encourage any Catholic man, young or old, to consider joining our local council.

"Becoming a Knight deepens your faith and gives you a lot of resources to be a better father, son and family man," he says. "Participating in the fundraisers and the giving brings you closer to your brother Knights. We're all one big family."

Are you interested in learning more about our Knights of Columbus Council? If so, please call Grand Knight John Benz at 217-440-0875, or Financial Secretary John Veith at 217-653-0258.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. | T, W, Th 8:35 a.m. | Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 8:30 a.m., 3 - 4 p.m.

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil 5:30 p.m.; **Holy Day:** 6:30 a.m., 8:35 a.m. on school days, 5:30 p.m.