# Pilgrim Icon Program

## **News Release**

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## Local Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Pilgrim Icon Prayer Service in Honor of St. Joseph

Contact	•						
	1	Name, Phone Num	ber and Email of Local F	Knights of Colum	bus		
		An ic	on of St. Joseph wil	I be the cente	erpiece of a s	special prav	yer service
	City, State/Province		·				,
at (	Name of Parish	) in (		) on (		) at (	).
•	Name of Parish		Town/City		Date		Time
	yer service, flowing fro		•			•	•
			3	•	Council Name a		
to honor	St. Joseph and pray f	or his interces	sion in preserving,	cultivating an	d passing o	n the Cath	olic faith to
future ge	enerations.						

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly chose to entrust his service as Supreme Knight to St. Joseph and through this Pilgrim Icon Program, encourage Knights and their communities to "turn in prayer to St. Joseph, give thanks to God for the gift of fatherly example, and ask St. Joseph to be a father to us" as we seek to "grow in our own imitation of St. Joseph's quiet strength, integrity and fidelity."

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis received the Order's Board of Directors in a private audience, during which the Holy Father said, "I commend all of you in a special way to the intercession of St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who is an admirable model of those manly virtues of quiet strength, integrity and fidelity which the Knights of Columbus are committed to preserving, cultivating and passing on to future generations of Catholic men."

Faith in Action Faith

The St. Joseph icon is the latest icon to be a part of the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program. Every few years, the Knights of Columbus selects an icon of a saint whose patronage is particularly inspiring to Knights and their communities to be featured in the program. The icons travel from council to council and serve as the centerpieces for prayer services in parishes throughout the Order.

Since its inception in 1979, the program has held more than 174,800 local council and parish prayer services with some 22 million participants. Featured images have included Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity, Our Lady of Persecuted Christians and the Holy Family.

All membe	rs of the community a	re encouraged	to join Knights of Co	olumbus (	Council Na	ame and Numb	
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at (		) in (		) on (		) at (	)
	Name of Parish		Town/City		Date		Time
to pray for	the intercession of St	. Joseph in rais	ing, guarding and p	eparing futu	re generatio	ns.	

### Please Spread the Word!

Council (	) in ()	is one of 17,000 Knights of Columbus councils
Number	Town/City	

that make up the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately two million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally with financial contributions and hands-on service.

#### **About the Knights of Columbus**

In 1882, Blessed Michael McGivney, a young parish priest in New Haven, Conn., founded the Knights of Columbus to serve the needs of a largely immigrant Catholic community. What began as a small fraternal benefit society has since grown into one of the world's leading international charitable organizations, with 2 million members in more than 16,000 local councils. During the past year, Knights around the world donated more than 47 million service hours and \$150 million for worthy causes in their communities. The Knights of Columbus also offers extensive life insurance products to members and their families and currently has more than \$116 billion of life insurance policies in force. In addition, the Knights provides investment services in accord with Catholic social teaching through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, which holds nearly \$30 billion in assets under management. Based on the founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Order remains committed to strengthening Catholic families and parishes and to practicing faith in action through service to all in need. To learn more or to join the Knights of Columbus, please visit kofc.org/join.