

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

*“I am the Resurrection and the Life:  
whoever believes in Me, though he should die,  
will come to life...”*

**(JN 11:25-26)**

**IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER**

One of the most important ways the Knights of Columbus support each other is through prayer, especially at the time of death. Brother Knights demonstrate their fraternity in exemplary measure when they pray for the soul of a departed Knight and console the members of his family. In this regard, the Knights have continued the venerable tradition of praying the Rosary during the wake of a departed brother. In order to facilitate this important prayer, a Knights of Columbus Memorial Service has been developed for use throughout the Order. All assemblies are urged to use this service as they pray at the wakes of the faithful departed.

**DEVOTION TO OUR LADY**

In keeping with the spirit of our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, and our namesake, Christopher Columbus, the Knights of Columbus encourages devotion to Our Lady as a way of becoming closer to Christ. It is most fitting, therefore, that the Rosary of Our Lady should be prayed at a memorial service of departed brother Knights. Prayer of the Rosary assures family members that Mary, the Mother of the Church, will guide the soul of the departed brother to her Son, and help strengthen the fraternal bonds of charity that exist between living brother Knights and their families.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR DECEASED KNIGHTS**

**FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR OR PRESIDER:** Dear friends, shortly before his own Passion, Our Lord Jesus wept tears with Mary and Martha upon the death of Lazarus. In the midst of this sorrow, he told Martha: *“I am the Resurrection and the Life: whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life”* (Jn 11:25-26). Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb to teach us that death is not the end for those who believe, but rather a glorious beginning. Upon leaving this world, the faithfully departed begin their journey toward a heavenly dwelling place, prepared for them by Christ who rose from the dead (cf., Jn 14:4-3). The passing away of our earthly life, therefore, is a transition to a new life in which “every tear is wiped from our faces” (cf., Is 25:8) and sickness, pain and suffering are no more.

Every Knight of Columbus is entrusted to the care of Mary, the Mother of God. We carry the Rosary as the sign of our dedication to her and to her Son. Confident in her motherly love for

us all, we entrust the soul of our brother (Name) to her, that she may present him to her Son. As an expression of our fraternal concern, let us pray together the rosary of Our Lady.

*The introduction having been made,  
the presider begins:*

**PRESIDER:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen

*The presider leads the people  
in the recitation of the Creed:*

**ALL:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

*The presider leads the people  
in praying the Our Father:*

**PRESIDER:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

*The people respond:*

**ALL:** Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*The presider leads the people in praying  
the Hail Mary three times:*

**PRESIDER:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**ALL:** Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen (Repeat three times.)

*The presider leads the people in  
praying the Glory be:*

**PRESIDER:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*The presider continues:*

**PRESIDER:** The Five (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary, offered for the repose of the soul of our brother (Name).

**FIRST LEADER:** The First (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) Mystery,  
the (Announce Mystery).

*The first leader and people pray  
the Our Father once:*

**FIRST LEADER:** Our Father...

**ALL:** Gives us this day...

*The first leader and people pray  
the Hail Mary 10 times:*

**FIRST LEADER:** Hail Mary...

**ALL:** Holy Mary...

*The first leader and people pray  
the Glory be once:*

**FIRST LEADER:** Glory be...

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning...

*The Fatima Prayer (optional) may be prayed  
by all after the Glory be:*

**ALL:** O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into  
heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

**SECOND LEADER:** The Second (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) Mystery,  
the (Announce Mystery).

*The second leader and people pray  
the Our Father once:*

**SECOND LEADER:** Our Father...

**ALL:** Gives us this day...

*The second leader and people pray  
the Hail Mary 10 times:*

**SECOND LEADER:** Hail Mary...

**ALL:** Holy Mary...

*The second leader and people pray  
the Glory be once:*

**SECOND LEADER:** Glory be...

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning...

*The Fatima Prayer (optional) may be prayed  
by all after the Glory be:*

**ALL:** O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

**THIRD LEADER:** The Third (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) Mystery, the (Announce Mystery).

*The third leader and people pray  
the Our Father once:*

**THIRD LEADER:** Our Father...

**ALL:** Gives us this day...

*The third leader and people pray  
the Hail Mary 10 times:*

**THIRD LEADER:** Hail Mary...

**ALL:** Holy Mary...

*The third leader and people pray  
the Glory be once:*

**THIRD LEADER:** Glory be...

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning...

*The Fatima Prayer (optional) may be prayed  
by all after the Glory be:*

**ALL:** O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

**FOURTH LEADER:** The Fourth (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) Mystery, the (Announce Mystery).

*The fourth leader and people pray  
the Our Father once:*

**FOURTH LEADER:** Our Father...

**ALL:** Gives us this day...

*The fourth leader and people pray  
the Hail Mary 10 times:*

**FOURTH LEADER:** Hail Mary...

**ALL:** Holy Mary...

*The fourth leader and people pray  
the Glory be once:*

**FOURTH LEADER:** Glory be...

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning...

*The Fatima Prayer (optional) may be prayed  
by all after the Glory be:*

**ALL:** O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

**FIFTH LEADER:** The Fifth (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) Mystery, the (Announce Mystery).

*The fifth leader and people pray  
the Our Father once:*

**FIFTH LEADER:** Our Father...

**ALL:** Gives us this day...

*The fifth leader and people pray  
the Hail Mary 10 times:*

**FIFTH LEADER:** Hail Mary...

**ALL:** Holy Mary...

*The fifth leader and people*

*pray*

*the Glory be once:*

**FIFTH LEADER:** Glory be...

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning...

*The Fatima Prayer (optional) may be prayed  
by all after the Glory be:*

**ALL:** O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

*The decades having been completed, the presider leads  
the people in praying the Hail, Holy Queen:*

**PRESIDER:** Hail Holy Queen...

**ALL:** ...Mother of Mercy! Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.

**PRESIDER:** Queen of the Most Holy Rosary pray for us...

**ALL:** ...that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

**PRESIDER:** Let us pray...

**ALL:** O God, whose only Begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of everlasting life, pray, we beseech Thee, that meditating on these

mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRESIDER:** May the Divine assistance remain always with us...

**ALL:** ...and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**PRESIDER:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen.

*Or, if the presider is a bishop or priest:*

+ May Almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen.

**FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR OR PRESIDER:** Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, we present to you the soul of our brother (Name) that you may lead him into the presence of your Son. We look forward to the day when we will all join (Name) in that heavenly kingdom, where your Son lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

*The Faithful Navigator or presider now reads  
and presents the Resolution of Condolence  
(see Appendix III if certificate is not available).*

*If the departed Sir Knight belonged to an  
assembly participating in a chalice program, the  
chalice, if available, should be presented once the  
Resolution of Condolence has been read and presented.*

*If a religious gift is to be given to the family,  
the presentation should be made at this time.*

## **APPENDIX I**

### **The Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary**

#### **JOYFUL**

The Annunciation (The Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary)

The Visitation (Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth)

The Nativity (Jesus is born in Bethlehem)

The Presentation (Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem)

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (The boy Jesus is found among the doctors in the Temple)

#### **SORROWFUL**

The Agony in the Garden (Jesus suffers on the Mount of Olives)

The Scourging at the Pillar (Jesus is scourged for our sins)

The Crowning with Thorns (Jesus receives a crown of thorns)

The Carrying of the Cross (Jesus carries the cross through the streets of Jerusalem)

## GLORIOUS

The Resurrection (Jesus rises from the tomb on the third day)  
The Ascension (Jesus ascends to the Father)  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit (The Holy Spirit descends upon Mary and the Apostles)  
The Assumption (Mary is assumed Body and Soul into Heaven)  
The Crowning (Mary is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth)

## LUMINOUS

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan  
Manifestation of Jesus at the Wedding at Cana  
The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God  
The Transfiguration of Jesus  
Institution of the Eucharist

## APPENDIX II

Proper Days for Praying the Mysteries of the Rosary  
Sundays from Advent to Lent.....Joyful  
Sundays in Lent.....Sorrowful  
Sundays from Easter to Advent.....Glorious  
Mondays.....Joyful  
Tuesdays.....Sorrowful  
Wednesdays.....Glorious  
Thursdays.....Luminous  
Fridays.....Sorrowful  
Saturdays.....Joyful

## APPENDIX III

### Resolution of Condolence (for a Fourth Degree member)

*Begin reading here*

Knights of Columbus  
(Assembly name) Assembly  
Resolution of Condolence

In Memory of Sir Knight (Name)

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to call from our midst our beloved Brother who departed from this life (Date of death); and

Whereas, By his death, our Assembly has sustained the loss of an exemplary Catholic and worthy Knight; therefore, be it

Resolved, That while we bow in submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, we mourn the loss of our Brother who has been taken from us; and be it

Further resolved, That this testimonial of condolence be offered to the family of our departed Brother Knight as an expression of our heartfelt sympathy.