

Founder of the Knights of Columbus.
Blessed Michael McGivney,
Apostle to the Young and
Protector of Christian Family Life,
Intercede for Us.



FATHERMCGIVNEY.ORG

McGivney Fest in New Haven

In a confluence of celebrations held a few days before the fourth anniversary of the beatification of Father Michael McGivney, Archbishop Christopher Coyne of Hartford celebrated Sunday Mass on Oct. 27 in St. Mary's Church in New Haven. The Mass marked the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's Church as well as the 125th anniversary of St. Michael's Church and 75th anniversary of St. Martin de Porres Church, all of which are part of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish.

Concelebrating the Mass were Father Ryan Lerner and other priests of the parish, which includes eight New Haven churches, and previous St. Mary's pastors. After Mass, a parish fair was held outside the church on Hillhouse Avenue, with food, live music and children's games.

The event also celebrated the fourth anniversary of Father McGivney's beatification, which took place Oct. 31, 2020, in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford. At that time, Archbishop Leonard Blair was head of the archdiocese, a position from which he retired earlier in 2024, when Archbishop Coyne became the ordinary.

Sacred Heart

The Knights of Columbus will launch a Pilgrim Icon Program with the Sacred Heart of Jesus early in 2025. Copies of one of the most famous images of the Sacred Heart, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni, will be sent to every K of C jurisdiction worldwide and make tours of local councils, which will hold prayer services and processions. The yearlong program coincides with celebration of the 350th anniversary of the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who gave the Church the nine First Fridays devotion and Promises of the Sacred Heart.

The program also highlights the devotion of Father McGivney to the Sacred Heart, which is evidenced by the fact that he was buried with an image of the Sacred Heart on display, along with his original burial garments, at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven, Connecticut.



Archbishop Christopher Coyne offers Sunday Mass on Oct. 27 in St. Mary's Church, which the New Haven parish celebrated as McGivney Fest. (Photo by Paul Haring)



This popular image of the Sacred Heart will be brought on pilgrimage to councils throughout the Order.

Texas Tour

Thousands of parishioners had the opportunity to venerate a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney as it traveled some 600 miles across five dioceses in southern Texas Sept. 3-7. The Texas State Council organized the pilgrimage through the dioceses of Victoria, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo and San Antonio, in collaboration with the Supreme Council, to introduce more people to the Knights' founder and encourage them to ask for his heavenly help.

At each parish the pilgrimage visited, a Fourth Degree honor guard ushered the bone-fragment relic into the church, where parishioners and other visitors gathered for Mass, a rosary and intercessory prayer. Local K of C councils also held exemplification ceremonies at each stop, welcoming new Knights into the Order.

State Deputy Ron Alonzo estimated that close to 10,000 people visited the relic over the five-day period. Father Mark Salas, a former associate state chaplain and chaplain of Our Lady of the Assumption Council 12697 in El Paso, also traveled with the relic.

"If Father McGivney were still around today, he would be happy to go to these five dioceses and say Mass with them, anoint them, bless them, laugh or cry with them," said Father Salas. "And that's exactly what he did, because the saints are [alive] in the eyes of God."

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.

Vice Postulator and Guild Director



Dear Guild Members,

The ceremony of beatification reaches a climax when a large banner with an image of the new blessed is unfurled for all to see. Most of the faithful present have no warning of this dramatic unveiling, and heads are raised in admiration and spontaneous applause often breaks out.

When the image of Blessed Michael McGivney was revealed during the Mass of Beatification more than four years ago, there was an audible gasp from the congregation. Person after person

stopped me afterward to share their sense of reverence and awe at that moment. We were caught up in the sense of the presence and power of God that not even COVID-imposed masks could diminish. To me, it was a sign that the holiness of God is mirrored in the lives of his saints. Long after their time on earth is finished, the saints lead us to God from their place in eternity. Their concern and prayers aid us along the way to our heavenly home.

The experience of that day has never left me, nor has my confidence in the power of Blessed Father McGivney's intercession gone away. Each day, I call upon him to ask his heavenly help for all those who have confided to me their struggles and suffering, and I remember all members of the Guild in the weekly Mass I offer for your intentions. I often hear of the power of his spiritual intervention in people's lives. Even if a specific petition is not directly answered, they still tell me of their renewed strength to bear the cross of difficulty or pain in a spirit

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FAVORS REPORTED

Mindful of the fact that a second miracle is needed for Father McGivney to advance to sainthood, the Guild continues to ask all members to pray to this Blessed servant of God and to spread knowledge of and devotion to him in your parishes and Knights of Columbus councils. Please report any favors received to the Father McGivney Guild (guild@kofc.org).

Surgery

My family was going through hard times with my dad undergoing major surgery. Blessed Michael McGivney interceded for us and provided us strength in these times. With God's grace, he helped my father to come through safely and my brother to persevere in all trials. Thank God for this saint-to-be! Father McGivney, pray for us all!

California

My wife suffers from high blood pressure, which is treated with several medications. She also has "white coat syndrome," which really elevates her blood pressure whenever she sees a doctor. Over the past four months she needed to have oral surgery to remove the tooth, but no dental surgeon would do the removal due to her high blood pressure. After two weeks of prayer to Blessed Michael McGivney, we received an appointment with an oral surgeon who was willing to attempt the surgery with an anesthetic procedure. Her blood pressure stayed at a safe level, and he completed the surgery successfully. Thanks to God and to the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney!

Ontario

Cancer

It's been over two years since the Guild visited my house with a relic of Blessed Michael McGivney for my sister's liver and bile duct cancer. We have continued our prayers to Father McGivney and shared his prayer cards with many friends and family. We've felt small miracles along the way and are grateful for that. Linda has celebrated two birthdays with her husband since her diagnosis. From being told that her condition was inoperable to still being able to drive, visit with friends, and enjoy her children and grandchildren, we are grateful. Please continue to pray with us for my sister.

Rhode Island

I prayed to Father McGivney during treatment of throat cancer. I am now 15 months cancer free and continue to pray in gratitude.

Nebraska

Orthopedic Problems

I had a herniated disc and a badly arthritic hip that caused significant pain, inability to be seated, or sleep in bed. I prayed to Father McGivney and was guided to an orthopedic surgeon, physical therapist, and chiropractor who assisted me to be 100% restored. Praise God!

Nebraska

I prayed through the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney to heal my son's back pain. Phillip is a veteran with one tour in Iraq. A VA doctor recommended physiotherapy treatment, which made the pain almost go away.

Wisconsin

Luisa's knee was restored through prayer to Blessed Michael McGivney and her working with a brother Knight as her therapist. I pray the Blessed Michael McGivney prayer each morning and credit him for this miracle. Luisa is walking well without any knee issues a year afterward and agrees that she was blessed with a wonderful miracle.

Texas

Employment

My son, a 53-year-old husband and father of three, was laid off from his job. He worked in sales for a financial company that sells employee payroll and benefits to small businesses, a very competitive industry. My husband and I did what we could to help financially and prayed the prayer for the Blessed Michael McGivney prayer daily. Yesterday, he got a job offer in his field.

New York

Hemorrhage

In April 2024, a friend in New Canaan felt a sharp pain in his neck, was taken by ambulance to the hospital, diagnosed with a sub-arachnoid hemorrhage, put into a medically induced coma for five days, and given a small chance of recovery to return to full mental/physical capacity. When I heard of his condition, I noted his name in my prayer journal, with a specific intention to Father McGivney for complete healing. In August, the doctors reported that he was fully recovered.

Connecticut

GUILD ITEMS

Please Send Items Below To:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Indicate the number of items desired in the space provided. All prices are in U.S. dollars and include shipping and handling unless otherwise noted. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

_____ McGivney Graphic Novel — \$15/copy

_____ Beatification DVD — \$45

_____ Blessed McGivney Beatification Medallion — \$40

_____ Reliquary (case w/third-class relic) — \$20 donation

_____ Father McGivney Plaque — \$190

_____ 8" Figurine (Fiberglass) — \$50

_____ Red Rosary (PG-614) — \$10

_____ White Rosary (PG-615) — \$10

_____ Pewter Spoon — \$11

PRINTED ITEMS — FREE OF CHARGE UP TO 25 COPIES

_____ *A Model for Our Times* booklet

_____ Prayer for Canonization card

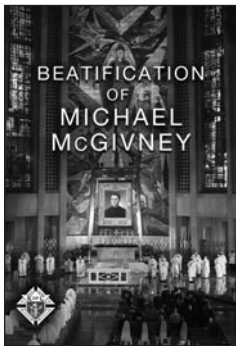
_____ Prayer for Canonization card (with third-class relic)

_____ McGivney Novena Prayer Booklet

Complete and return to the Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326. Make check payable to: Father McGivney Guild. Tax-deductible donations may also be sent to this address.

Many more Father McGivney promotional and devotional items may be purchased online with a credit card or check at the KnightsGear website (knightsgear.com).

Write out your prayer intention below and mail to the Guild, or submit an intention online at www.fathermcgivney.org



Beatification DVD

The historic Mass of Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney is captured on this DVD of the ceremony of Oct. 31, 2020. Relive the moment when Father McGivney was proclaimed "Blessed."
\$45.00 (includes shipping)



Third-Class Relic

A small piece of cloth touched to the bodily remains of Father McGivney is contained in an ornate reliquary and placed in a solid plastic case. Use for personal prayer and devotion. **Donation: \$20**



8" Figurine of Father McGivney

Crafted by Italian sculptors. Depicts Father McGivney holding a book with the emblem of the Knights of Columbus embossed on the cover. This figurine can remind us of Father McGivney's presence in our lives and his role as intercessor for our needs. Available in fiberglass with a golden-bronze finish. **\$50**



Father McGivney Plaque

This semi-relief plaque is perfect for hanging in a council meeting place. Solid yet portable, it measures 12 in. high, 10 in. wide, a half-inch deep, and weighs 4 lbs. Made of compressed marble powder and plated with a composite of copper and nickel, each piece is hand-designed by a U.S. Catholic art house. **\$190**



Eight men from the McGivney House in Baltimore, along with two priest-formators, embarked on a tour of McGivney sites on Nov. 8, 2024. They gathered outside the Thomaston Opera House, where Father McGivney staged plays during his time as pastor in the northern Connecticut town. Opened on the grounds of the original St. Mary's Seminary on Paca Street, McGivney House welcomes men who seek spiritual and pastoral formation in preparation for entering formal seminary studies. (Photo by David Verdosci)

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of faith. No Christian should be naïve about the importance of the Cross in daily life. God sometimes answers our prayers for deliverance with the grace of patient endurance. Our faith is strengthened so that we can bear miseries that have come our way. For the baptized person, human pain and suffering are salvific because they join us to Jesus. What he endured in his passion and death consecrated suffering as a way to be configured to him in preparation for eternal joy.

Father McGivney had many personal experiences of suffering. In his family, the deaths of six younger siblings and the strain of finances meant that the McGivney home was familiar with sorrow and struggle. As a priest, his parishioners frequently turned to him with their heartbreaking sorrows. While he was a man of action, it was to his priestly and prayerful heart that they turned. His heartfelt understanding and compassion meant more than any practical solution. They knew that he loved and cared for them.

Father McGivney offers a model for confronting seemingly impossible difficulties. The historical record shows his repeated attempts to address family crises among the faithful. His pastoral charity reached across the divide of cultural differences and

religious hostilities. He offered compassion to Protestants and Catholics alike, to the social elites and to the working man and his family. There was little time or space in his life for self-concern or self-pity. Despite his natural inclination toward quiet and solitude, he stretched his nature to become a man of the people.

He founded the Knights of Columbus to encourage Catholic men to face the reality of Christian suffering, the mystery of the cross, in faith and fortitude, with true spiritual courage. Acceptance of the mystery of the Cross would inspired in him a desire to look to the needs of others. That selfless acceptance is central to the blessed legacy that we are called to emulate. It is a message of universal significance that will never go out of style.

Blessed Michael McGivney, *pray for us!*

Devotedly yours,

Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.

**Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.
Guild Director
Vice-Postulator**

New Storybook Ready

A newly published children's storybook on Father McGivney is available for \$10 from KnightsGear, the official supplier of the Knights of Columbus. Titled *A Father's Heart: The Story of Blessed Michael McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus*, the book tells the story of this dynamic priest who was a central figure of the growth of the Church in America. Young readers will enjoy the colorful illustrations and the lively story that follows Michael McGivney from his days as a boy in Waterbury, Connecticut, to his seminary years and ordination, to the exciting events of his priesthood and founding of the Knights of Columbus, to his holy death. Included is the story of the first miracle involving the healing of a child in the womb that led to his beatification. To order, visit: knightsgear.com, and scroll to the bottom of the homepage to click on an image of Father McGivney.