

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
February 2022 Volume 4 Issue 11



## Uproar over Chicago Mass: Did this Christmas Eve liturgy go too far?

Outraged by a free-wheeling Christmas Eve Mass that featured jazz musicians, choreographed dances around the altar, and theatrical lighting effects, some Catholics



are calling on Cardinal Blase Cupich to crack down on liturgical abuses in Novus Ordo Masses in the Archdiocese of Chicago, rather than imposing severe restrictions on reverential Traditional Latin Masses.

Father Michael L. Pfleger, a well-known social activist in Chicago, celebrated the Dec. 24 evening Mass, which was live streamed from St. Sabina Church, a predominantly Black parish on the city's South Side. Pfleger has been the pastor there since 1981.

Many of those upset by the Mass say it crossed the line from worship to entertainment. That view is fueled, in part, by the fact that it is not clear from the nearly 2½ hour video of the service, billed as "Christmas Eve at Sabina," when the liturgy actually begins. There is no apparent greeting, penitential act, or opening prayer, all required introductory Rites of the Novus Ordo liturgy. In the video, posted on YouTube, Pfleger does not appear on the altar until after nearly an hour of musical and dance performances. A band plays a mix of religious carols and secular music, including Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed" and the Vincent Guaraldi Trio's "Christmas Time is Here" (best known from the Peanuts Christmas special, "A

Charlie Brown Christmas") while colorfully costumed dancers swirl around the altar.

In one of the video's most jarring segments, prior to Pfleger's arrival, a woman reads a reflection on racism, gun violence,

and other social ills. The woman shouts at some points, while figures near the altar, including some dressed in hooded cloaks that resemble Ku Klux Klan robes, dramatize her words.

Pfleger, 72, has been a prominent anti-violence and social justice advocate for many years. A Chicago native, he has been outspoken against the epidemic of gun violence in the city's South Side and oversees a host of active social ministries at St. Sabina's.

Pfleger adopted an 8-year-old boy in 1981 and another son in 1992. In 1997 he became the foster father of another city youth who was killed in a gang shootout in 1998.

The popular priest also has been a lightning rod for controversy.

In 2008, the late Cardinal Francis George asked Pfleger to go on a two-week leave of absence after he publicly mocked then-Sen. Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama's rival in the Democratic presidential primaries that year.

George suspended Pfleger in 2011 after the priest threatened to leave the priesthood if George reassigned him.

The cardinal later accepted Pfleger's apology and reinstated him as St. Sabina's pastor.



### FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Evangelical Pastor claims Jesus hasn't returned yet because people aren't donating enough money

Rising sea levels alarm Philippine bishops

Mexico's Supreme Court Votes to Decriminalize Abortion

U.S. Mass attendance down 14% after COVID lockdown

Stats show Irish women benefit from waiting period before abortion, observers say

Pope Francis: Governments must act urgently against child pornography

In 2021, it became obvious the US bishops and the pope are singing from different hymnals

New policy requires all Chicago clergy to get permission to celebrate Latin Mass

COVID-19 vaccines present 'no ethical problem,' says head of papal academy

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,  
I am reaching out to you this month for prayerful consideration for delegates to the state conference and an annual award named for Bob Anderson.

First, I would like to ask you to consider two delegates for the state convention from May 13 th to 15 th , 2022. This is an excellent opportunity to more fully understand the benefits of membership and resources available to districts and councils in our state. Please be prepared to submit nominations at the February council meeting. Secondly, we have a request to create an annual council award in honor of Bob Anderson. The award would

recognize one Knight each year who best exemplifies the tenants of our order and would include a presentation to which Bob's daughters and family would be invited. In conjunction with a vote to approve or disapprove this idea, we need to consider the following:

1. What specific criteria will be used to evaluate nominees?
2. Will the award be a certificate? Plaque? Other?
3. How much money will be allocated to the award and reception?
4. Establish an awards committee for evaluation of nominees.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and consider membership on a committee to refine and participate in this award process.

Vivat Jesus,  
Bill



“Never argue with stupid people. They will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.~~Mark Twain

When life gives you hundreds of reasons to cry, show life that you have thousands of reasons to smile.

If you continue to focus on the hurt, you will contue to suffer; if you focus on the lesson, you will continue to grow.

Worry won't stop the bad stuff from happening; it just stops you from enjoying the good.

Our days are happier when we give people a piece of our heart instead of a piece of our mind.

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan



### THE VIRUTAL TOUR

Thanks to th Rochefoucauld were able to access the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes during the first lockdown in April 2020 and film all the places in 3D. In the 160 years of its existence, the Sanctuary has never been empty of pilgrims.

You are used to hearing many images being referred to as exceptional. However, here are some that are really exceptional.

These images will enable you to discover the inside and outside of the Sanctuary as you have never seen it before: you will be able to visit the inside of the basilicas, enter the Grotto, walk through the Sanctuary grounds, soar above the domain and get an aerial view too. Thanks to this visit, you will see unexpected details, you will have unique views and perspectives of the Sanctuary.

Your visit, through these images, is a beautiful tribute to our predecessors, who bequeathed us this leading place of faith and prayer. It is also an invitation from Our Lady to you, as she did with Bernadette Soubirous: “Would you do me the grace of coming here?”

Please see more information on page 5..



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Art Corby  
February 4



Kevin Manning  
February 11



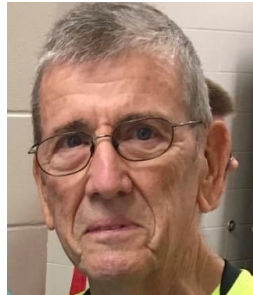
Pete Grasso  
February 12



Andy McClane  
February 14



Nick Cambardello  
February 17



Jim Patton  
February 19



Mike Guarino  
February 19



Dan Timmons  
February 28

## After-school 'Satan club' in Illinois district elicits 'concern'

Elementary schoolchildren in Moline, Illinois, have been invited this week to an "after-school Satan club" with five different meeting dates planned for early this year, according to flyers placed in the school's lobby and shared on social media.

Some parents are angry about their children's exposure to information about the club, apparently prompting the superintendent of schools to weigh in. The Satanic Temple says on its website that it operates the clubs "at select public schools where Good News Clubs also operate."

Given the "mounting concerns and questions" about the "Satan club" flyer that was made available to students at Jane Addams Elementary School in Moline, Illinois, Dr. Rachel Savage of Moline-Coal Valley Schools wrote a letter to parents, which was shared online.

"I wanted to take a moment and share some additional information regarding the after-school club you may have heard about," she wrote. "I know there are many mounting concerns and questions. I hear you and I understand."

The superintendent noted that the "facility rental for this after-school activity was not generated by the district and is not affiliated with Jane Addams or the district. It is nothing that involves or impacts the school day."

She made the following point as well: "A parent from within our district reached out to the national after-school satan club, informing them that Jane Addams Elementary School, in Moline, offers a child evangelism fellowship club and asked that they bring their program to that school as well, to offer parents a choice of different viewpoints."

Fox News Digital, which reached out to the district, received a reply Thursday afternoon, confirming that the flyer that has been circulating is indeed legitimate but stressing it was "not generated by the district, not distributed to all students, and not affiliated with any teacher in the district," according to Candace Sountris, communications director for the school district. She also said, "Community use of [the] school facility after school hours [is] approved by the Board of Education in accordance with IL School Code."

Patti Garibay, founder and executive director of American Heritage Girls, a Christian alternative to the Girl Scouts, told Fox News Digital in an email, "At a time when youth are experiencing a mental health pandemic, it is outrageous that a school district would allow a club based on the master of confusion."

The superintendent of Moline-Coal Valley Schools said in her online note to parents that the flyers were "not distrib-

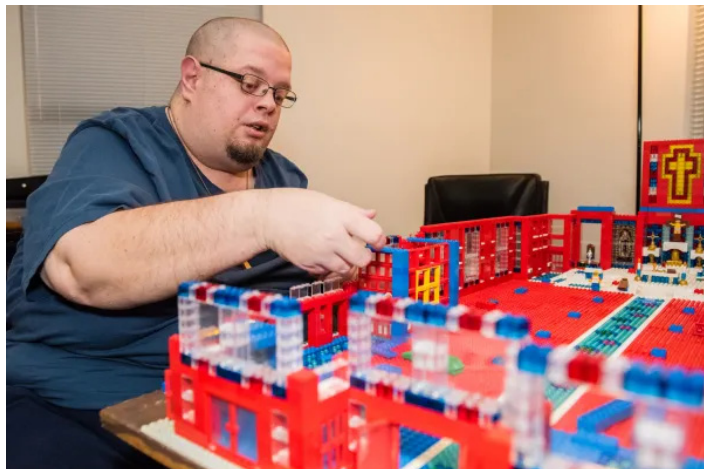
uted" to all students. She said "flyers and promotional materials" were sent to the school by the organization "to be placed in the lobby." There, flyers were made available for children to peruse and pick up if they chose to do so.

In a FAQ section, the Satanic Temple group says on its website in response to the question "Do you worship Satan?": "No, nor do we believe in the existence of Satan or the supernatural."

It goes on: "The Satanic Temple believes that religion can, and should, be divorced from superstition. As such, we do not promote a belief in a personal Satan. To embrace the name Satan is to embrace rational inquiry removed from supernaturalism and archaic tradition-based superstitions."



# Brick by Brick, This Lego Master Is Building up the Church



kindness of others to ferry him and his models all over Michigan. He also has had to battle a series of illnesses over the years, the uncharted territory of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other hurdles such as his mom's cancer diagnosis last year. "Despite the challenges, by the grace of God, I'm still standing, and I'm able to do the

John Kraemer isn't an architect by training, but he is a builder. In fact, he's probably designed and built more buildings than the average architect. The only difference? Kraemer's creations are made entirely out of Lego bricks — and all of them are deep expressions of his Catholic faith. The centerpiece of Kraemer's The Lego Church Project is — you guessed it — a giant Catholic church made out of Legos, newly designed each year by Kraemer, generally about two-and-a-half months in the making, and comprising some 30,000 pieces each. Every year, Kraemer builds the church, displays it at a handful of parishes in the Saginaw, Michigan area around the Advent and Christmas season, and then tears it down and starts again. He's been doing this for nearly two decades so far, with no plans to slow down. Kraemer has a mild form of cerebral

things I need to do," he said. What started as a hobby blossomed into something much more. The first official "display" Kraemer did of one of his Lego churches was at St. Helen's parish, now called Christ the Good Shepherd, in Saginaw. He has since toured numerous parishes and assisted living facilities with his creations, always garnering a warm reception. When not in use, Kraemer stores the tens of thousands of Lego bricks in his one-bedroom apartment. During the annual construction stage, Kraemer said he spends anywhere from 2 to 5 hours each day laying bricks. "As I am building, I'm laying out all of my own personal fears, all my own personal anxieties, any challenges that I'm personally facing ... I'm praying with my hands as I am building because I'm trying to build the faith in a very creative way," he explained.

Each church is of Kraemer's own design, but he says he tried to make his models as realistic as possible, and many are inspired by real church buildings he has visited.

Plus, Kraemer's churches aren't merely an expression of his creativity; each one not only "tells a story," but also sends a message about the things he values. For example, each of Kraemer's churches bursts with a congregation of smiling plastic people, sometimes as many as 200 strong.

"My [churches] are filled to the brim with people — on purpose, not by accident. ... When people see my work, I hope that it inspires them on a deep level to understand the value of the Mass," he noted.

"It is not a reflection of the past, but a prayer for the future. ... Our Mass attendance numbers have been going down for a long time. And I believe that the laity have an opportunity to be encouragements to others ... to make the Mass more of a priority.

Kraemer said he enjoys the "display" period each year because it allows him to answer questions about his Lego creations, and to enjoy people's reactions upon seeing his work, especially the reactions of kids.

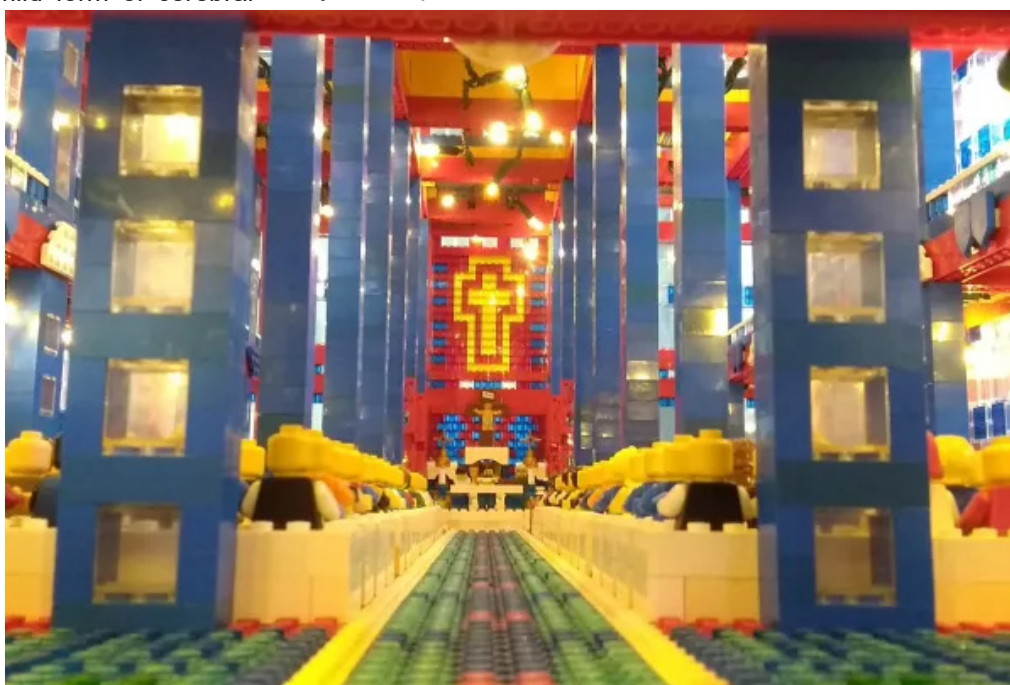
But he said it also allows him to explain his deeper motivations for such a labor-intensive project.

"I'm showing that no matter what challenge, whether it be medical or emotional or whatnot, no matter what challenge or disability you face, God can still use your talents," Kraemer explained.

"That is a message that I have been

palsy, which affects his learning, his balance, his hearing, and his fine motor control — a fact which makes his ability to construct such intricate Lego edifices all the more impressive.

Another factor? Kraemer doesn't drive, so he's had to rely on the



broadcasting for 22 years because I live it. I have cerebral palsy — I'm the last person on this earth that I would ever expect to be sitting here talking about the faith in the most creative way possible. And it is a humbling experience to know that I'm doing something amazing that people are enjoying."





*A Plenary Indulgence Granted by Papal Decree*

# Lourdes

## Virtual Pilgrimage Experience<sup>□</sup>



**St. Jerome Catholic Church**

10895 Hamlin Blvd  
Largo, FL 33774

**Friday, February 4, 10:30 AM**

---

**Mass 9:00 AM**

**Adoration until 10:30 AM**

**Lourdes Pilgrimage to follow**

- ★ *Lourdes Water*
- ★ *The Grotto Rock*
- ★ *Eucharistic Blessing*
- ★ *Candlelight Rosary*

**For more information contact:**

Parish Office: (727) 595-4610

*Admission is free. Donations are welcome.*



**Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality**

**North American Volunteers**

**[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)**

# The Veiled Christ: A World Masterpiece

Placed at the center of the nave of the Sansevero Chapel, the Veiled Christ is one of the most famous and impressive works of art in the world. It was the Prince's wish that the statue be made by Antonio Corradini, who had already done Modesty for him. However, Corradini died in 1752 and only managed to make a terracotta scale model of the Christ, which is now preserved in the Museo di San Martino.

So Raimondo di Sangro appointed a young Neapolitan artist, Giuseppe Sanmartino, to make "a life-sized marble statue, representing Our Lord Jesus Christ dead, and covered in a transparent shroud carved from the same block

as the statue".

Sanmartino paid little heed to the previous scale model made by the Venetian sculptor. Both in Modesty, and in the Veiled Christ, the original stylistic message is in the veil, but Sanmartino's late baroque feeling and sentiment permeate the shroud with a movement and a meaning far removed from Corradini's rules. The modern sensitivity of the artist sculpts and divests the lifeless body of its flesh, which the soft shroud mercifully covers, on which the tormented, writhing rhythms of the folds of the veil engrave deep suffering, almost as if the compassionate covering made the poor limbs still more na-

ked and exposed, and the lines of the tortured body even more inexorable and precise.

The swollen vein still pulsating on the forehead, the wounds of the nails on the feet and on the thin hands, and the sunken side finally relaxed in the freedom of death are a sign of an intense search which has no time for preciousness or scholastic canons, even when the sculptor meticulously "embroiders" the edges of the shroud or focuses on the instruments of the Passion placed at the feet of Christ. Sanmartino's art here becomes a dramatic evocation, that turns the suffering of Christ into the symbol of the destiny and redemption of all humanity.





# Amid 1,000 Colorado Houses Destroyed by Fire, Virgin Mary Statue Stands Unscathed

When we arrived at our home, it was completely destroyed. All but five of 55 homes in our neighborhood were. Those that were not were completely unscathed. Very strange. Across the street, a similar picture; to the south, the same: all three neighborhoods gone.

When we climbed down into the smoldering rubble of what had been our home, almost nothing was recognizable. A few pots and pans. Twisted steel I-beams, disconnected from the foundation, had fallen onto the ash. On our front porch we could see the crumbled concrete of the foundation, bricks strewn about. And the beautiful designer front doors themselves melted into a twisted ball. But Mary remained.

Covered by black soot on the right half of the statue's body, the Marian image was unscathed. Bricks appeared to have fallen all around; some probably

even hit the statue. But it didn't even fall over. At the feet of the statue, beneath the debris, are many heart-shaped stones that Kat and I have collected on our many hikes, reminding us that we have consecrated our lives to Jesus through Mary and that her Immaculate Heart and his Sacred Heart will protect and sustain us through anything.

The statue is a symbol. Amid the smoldering ruins that hours earlier had



been an inferno, Mary remained — as she will in our lives, interceding for us through the darkest of times, praying for us to Jesus Christ, her Son, Our Lord and Savior.

## BITS AND PIECES

known. Also, any present officer who doesn't want to run again should let that be known. We also need of an inside guard.

5. Drive-through confessions will still continue on the last Sunday of the month.

6. January 29 will be an online exemption for 4th degree.

7. Brother Bob Anderson died January 10. He was laid to rest at Serenity Garden. We are sure the angels have welcomed him with open wings.

7. We still do not have a Field (Insurance) Agent.

8. This is the 5th year anniversary of Bishop Gregory's tenure with the DOSP.

1. Some blank bricks in the grotto have been placed in the ground, in not particular order. Many bricks not yet delivered have inscriptions and images on them. As soon as we can figure out how to get them delivered without too much cost, we will do that. One of four images can also be placed on a brick; just let us know which one you would like. The way and place your brick(s) will be placed will be the luck of the draw. (See photo to the right.)

2. Our breakfasts will continue on the third Sunday of the month. Each time, the menu will change slightly. Our receipts are higher than our expenses at this time. It was decided that we need better signs to advertise the breakfast, so that will be looked into.

3. Alpha will begin shortly, but we Knights will not be involved as we were last time.

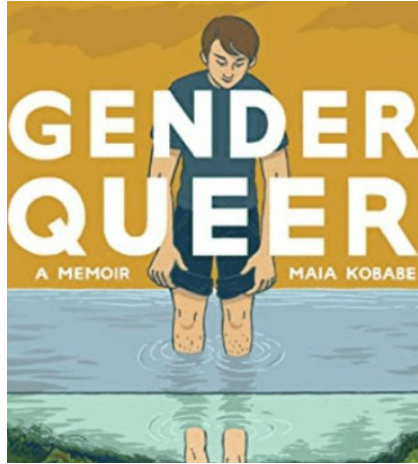
4. The next election of officers will be held in May, so anyone who is interested should let his intentions be



# Pornographic Material Invades Texas School Library

Pornography in schools has received substantial attention in recent weeks. A Virginia mother who exposed the presence of two pornographic books to the Fairfax County School Board in September was barred from entering her son's school library last week, weeks after the meeting she spoke at.

One of the books, the graphic novel *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe, was also present in school libraries in Texas and helped prompt Abbott's actions. The book contains graphic drawings depicting sex. Kobabe defended the book in a Washington Post op-ed last month, saying that claims the book contains pornography are a "common accusation against work with themes of



queer sexuality."

The directive is Abbott's latest step in confronting pornographic content in Texas schools, which he said violates a state law that prohibits showing or providing pornographic material to minors.

"The fact that pornographic material that serves no educational purpose has been made available to students in Texas public schools is a clear violation of the law," Abbott wrote in his letter.

Abbott said that inaction on the part of the Texas Association of School Boards prompted his letter, which came just over a week after he asked the association to "vet library materials before they are used" and stated that the organization had "an obligation to ensure that no child in Texas is exposed to por-

nography or other inappropriate content while inside a Texas public school."

"While the Texas Association of School Boards has refused to assist their member school boards to address this issue, the State of Texas must act for the sake of Texas students and parents," Abbott wrote, hoping to resolve the issue even though he knows it won't be easy.

"That is why I am directing the Texas Education Agency to investigate any criminal activity in our public schools involving the availability of pornography," he continued. "During this investigation, I ask the agency to refer any instance of pornography being provided to minors under the age of 18 for prosecution to the fullest extent of the law." "We have a responsibility to ensure that no Texas child is exposed to pornography or obscene content while in a Texas public school, and your investigation will help accomplish this mission," Abbott wrote Morath.