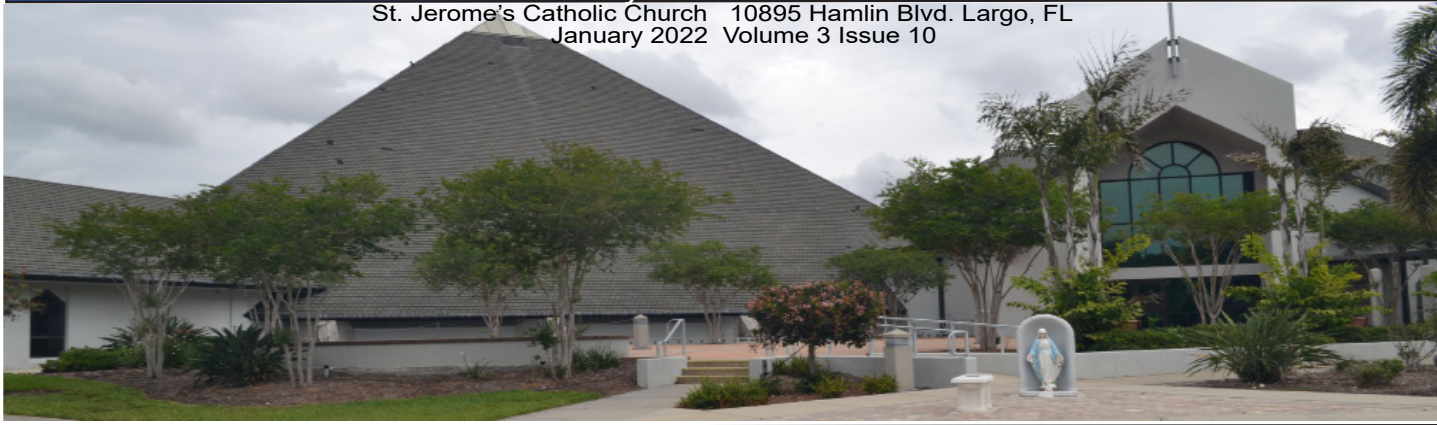


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
January 2022 Volume 3 Issue 10



Satanic Temple Installs Display at Illinois Capitol



This is not a baby goat you will want to hold.

Members of the Satanic Temple of Illinois installed a holiday-themed display inside the state Capitol in Springfield.

"This year's tradition marks a greater urgency in the Baphomet's message of harmony and reconciliation," said Erin Helian, the Satanic Temple's director of campaign operations, in a press release.

The display, which features an infant version of the Satanic deity Baphomet, was placed alongside the other city's holiday displays to celebrate Christmas.

The piece, designed by Albuquerque-based horror artist Chris Andres, was placed next to Springfield's Christian nativity scene.

The display immediately drew criticism and protesters, most notably the Springfield diocese and its leader, Bishop Thomas Paprocki. Paprocki oversaw the installation of the traditional Christian nativity, arguing a Satanic display "should have no place in

this Capitol or any other place," according to the State Journal-Register.

When representatives of the temple came to install the baby Baphomet sculpture, members of the Catholic advocacy group American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property gathered nearby to protest, holding signs that read, "Satan has no rights," and "Mary crushes the serpent," according to multiple outlets.

The Satanic Temple of Illinois has regularly installed Satanic displays

within the state Capitol. In 2019, it installed a display titled "Knowledge is the Greatest Gift," a sculpture that featured the forearm of Eve from the Garden of Eden alongside an apple and snake. There was not a display in 2020 due to COVID-19.

The Satanic Temple is a humanist organization in Salem, Massachusetts, that regularly makes news because of its political activism and promotion of secular values. The temple made news in August when it attempted to sue Texas over the state's heartbeat abortion bill, claiming it was a breach of the organization's religious rights.



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

Relic of Saint John Paul II Stolen From Historic Basilica

Paid Abortion Leave For City Employees Poses New Questions

Vatican Reaffirms Support for COVID-19 Vaccines Amid Spread of Omicron Variant

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,

Our first breakfast of the year in November was a great success. Our next monthly breakfast is December 19 and will feature biscuits and gravy. A number of parishioners with whom I have spoken are really looking forward to this menu! Please plan to help, if possible, on the third Sunday of each month to continue this great service to the church.

The "Winter Wonderland" event for the ECC was well attended. One lesson learned during this event is that we need reflective vests for traffic control. I have ordered seven from Knights Gear, and will soon purchase flashlights to ensure the safety of those who step up to

manage traffic at parish events.

You may have noticed the bricks are in place at the grotto. The plan is to replace sections of blank brick with the engraved bricks as they become available. Bill Bannon and I are in the process of contacting those who purchased bricks before images were available to see if they would like one added at no charge. I fully expect a surge in brick sales after people see how great the space looks and how they can remember people for just \$60.00. Please be prepared to step up to help those wanting to purchase their first or additional bricks.

Vivat Jesus,

Bill

Words of WISDOM

1. "The best way out is always through." - Robert Frost
2. Carpe Diem – "Seize the Moment; Live life to the fullest."
3. "Always Do What You Are Afraid To Do" – Ralph Waldo Emerson
4. "Believe and act as if it were impossible to fail." – Charles Kettering
5. "Keep steadily before you the fact that all true success depends at last upon yourself." – Theodore T. Hunger
6. "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." – Lao Tzu
7. "Opportunity is always knocking. The problem is that most people have the self-doubt station in their heads turned up way too loud to hear it" – Brian Vaszily
8. "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." – Gandhi

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights:

When I reflect on the person of John the Baptist, I always think of John 3:30, where John speak of Jesus that, "He must increase; I must decrease."

I would like to suggest your prayerful consideration for 2022: Sincerely yours in Christ, Fr. Tom Morgan

- 1) Follow the example of Mary (the sister of Martha and Lazarus) in Luke 10:49, "Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak."
- 2) Look for Jesus where He makes Himself present and be obedient to John 12:26, "...where I am, there also will my servant be."
- 3) Seek to meet Jesus at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in the Sacraments, in His Holy Word through prayer and meditation, through prayer, and through

service toward "the least" of our brothers and sisters.

4) Be obedient to the Heavenly Father when He directs us regarding His Son to, "...listen to him." Matthew 17:5, and allow the Holy Spirit to, "...guide you to all truth." John 16:13

5) Follow the example of Mary the Mother of God, and whatever truth that Jesus gives us let us continue, "...reflecting on them in [our] heart." Luke 2:19

6) Respond to that which Jesus speaks to your heart, soul, and mind and "...open the door..." to Jesus Revelation 3:20 and take to heart the words of His Mother Mary, "Do whatever He tells you." John 2:5

7) As we continue down the path of discipleship remember what #2567 in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" teaches, "God calls man first. man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him, yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response. As God gradually reveals

himself and reveals man to himself, prayer appears as a reciprocal call, a covenant drama. Through words and actions, this drama engages the heart."

8) Remember and look always for God's "first step."





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Tom Deebes
January 1

John Bordeaux
January 6

Bob Anderson
January 6

Bill Bannon
January 7



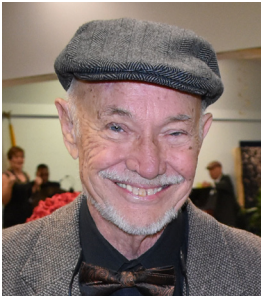
Bob Daughterty
January 9

Bob Kimsel
January 14

Jim Dolan
January 18

Edgar Lecuyer
January 20

Mark Wisner
January 21



Charlie Scott
January 22

Danny McConnell
January 25

Pat O'Leary
January 27

Ed Garnier
January 28

Jim Cullinan
January 31

Why Can't Priests Be Married?

A distinction must be made from the outset: some Catholic priests can be married and some can't. This distinction is possible because there is nothing in the Deposit of the Faith that prohibits priests from being married. There is a long-standing practice, though, to require celibacy of Latin (or Roman) rite priests. In the Eastern rites, celibacy is generally not required — although it is required for bishops.

Additionally, you will find married Catholic priests who come, for the most part, from one of the following scenarios: former Protestant ministers who have been ordained as priests under provisions approved by Pope St. John Paul II, former Anglican priests who have been received into the Catholic Church and been ordained Catholic priests after election of Anglican Ord-

nariates by Pope Benedict XVI, or Orthodox priests who are received into the Catholic Church.

The Latin Church does not see celibacy as an imposition. Rather, it sees celibacy as a sign that the priest's consecration to the Lord is with an undivided heart, where "they give themselves entirely to God and to men." "Celibacy is a sign of this new life to the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God"

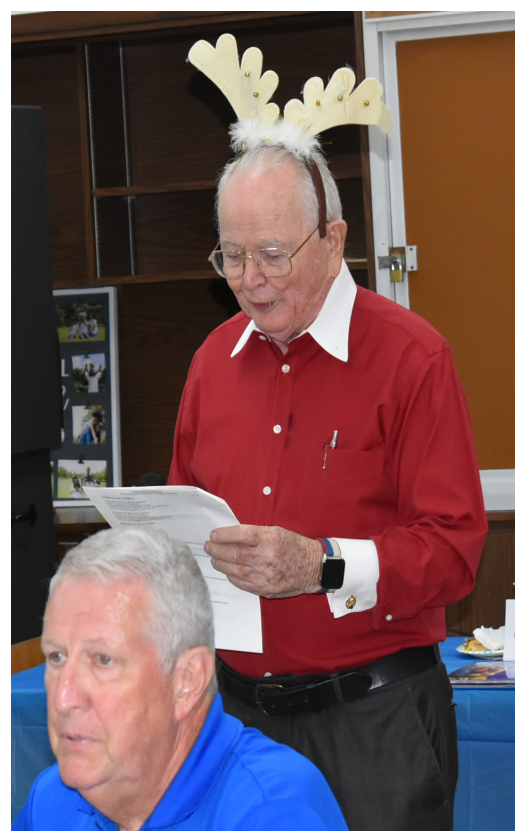
For any Catholic priest, if already ordained a priest, they cannot subsequently marry. Likewise, marriage after ordination is not possible ordinarily, without permission of the Holy See. This would apply in a situation if a wife died.



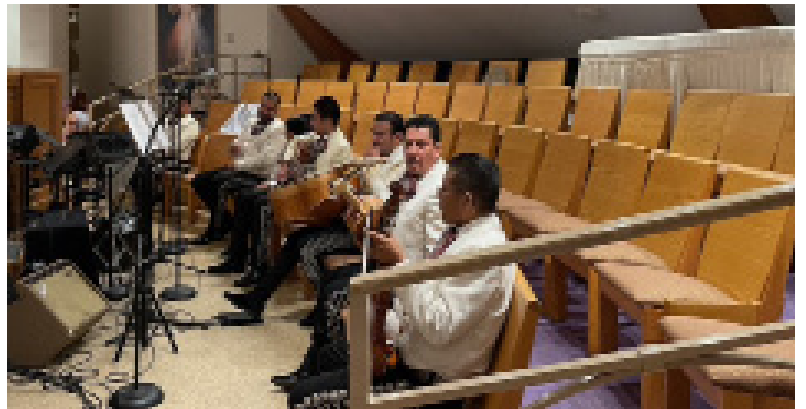
A quote from Pope Francis:

"The Catholic Church has married priests — Greek Catholics, Coptic Catholics, those of oriental rites. Celibacy is not a question of dogma, but rather a rule of life that I greatly appreciate, as I believe it is a gift for the Church. But, since it is not a dogma of faith, the door is always open."

KNIGHTS CHRISTMAS DINNER



Feast of Guadalupe



25 Amazing Things Too Many Catholics Don't Know About the Knights of Columbus (Maybe Even You!)



It all started when a parish priest wanted to help Catholic families. The year was 1882 and anti-

Catholic sentiment was running high. Catholic immigrants faced hostility and were thrown into dangerous work conditions which could cause early deaths. So 29-year-old Father Michael McGivney gathered the men of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., to establish a lay organization.

- 1) The goal? To unite men of Catholic faith and provide for the families of deceased members.
- 2) The Order is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization. Today, with nearly 2 million members worldwide, the Order is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity.
- 3) The Knights have councils in over a dozen countries. Knights are active in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, Poland, Panama, Guatemala, Lithuania, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, South Korea, Ukraine and more!
- 4) The Knights stood up to ISIS. The Order produced a 280-page report detailing the genocide against Christians by ISIS, which was decisive in getting the genocide recognized by the U.S. State Department.
- 5) The Knights are saving a Christian town in Iraq that was desecrated by ISIS. They are raising \$2 million to save Karamles, a town recently liberated from ISIS.
- 6) Columbus was chosen as the Knights' namesake because the American public loved this famous Catholic explorer at a time of general antipathy towards Catholics. Today, many make him out to be a villain, but many of

- those claims are actually historically inaccurate.
- 7) The K of C emblem is literally everywhere at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. That's because the Knights are one of the major supporters of the March for Life and the pro-life movement.
 - 8) K of C has donated \$1.62 billion (yes, billion!) to charitable causes as of December 2017.
 - 9) They have swords! Maybe the most important point.

10) The Knights of Columbus Fortune 1000 Insurance Company was born out of Father McGivney's vision to help protect Catholic families from financial ruin. As a seminarian, his father died unexpectedly. Father McGivney was convinced that there had to be a way to help other Catholic families facing similar financial troubles. He established the K of C insurance system that has evolved into a top-rated insurance program, with over \$100 billion of life insurance in force.

- 11) K of C founder Father McGivney may become a saint. His cause for canonization is open, and he was given the title "Venerable Servant of God" by the Holy See in 2008.
- 12) Oh, and some Knights are already saints. St. Luis Batis, St. Rodrigo Aguilar, St. Miguel de la Mora, St. Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, St. José María Robles and St. Mateo Correa were martyred during the persecution of Catholics in Mexico in the early 20th century.
- 13) At the peak of the Ku Klux Klan's power, the K of C stood as its most vigorous opponent. In one incident in 1924, hooded Klansmen abducted, severely beat and mutilated Father John Conoley in Gainesville, Fla. Knights armed with shotguns stood in the windows of the rectory, protecting another priest and the church itself from the Klan's threats to burn it.
- 14) The Knights have been a huge supporter of the Special Olympics since day one.
- 15) Babe Ruth, Vince Lombardi, and President John F. Kennedy were all members of the Knights.

- 16) Ever wonder how the words "under God" became part of the Pledge of Allegiance? We can thank the K of C for that.
- 17) They have a long history with Mother Teresa. Upon receiving the Knights' Gaudium et Spes Award she said, "I accept out of sheer gratitude, for they have done so much for our congregation and for our poor."

18) They're a major supporter of vocations. K of C councils "adopt" one or more seminarians and provide them with financial assistance and prayer through the RSVP program.

19) Knights of Columbus has an investments business called Asset Advisors. K of C's investment team manages approximately \$24 billion in assets in accordance with Catholic moral principles.

20) Both the first American and the last American to fall in World War I were Knights of Columbus.

21) They have a long tradition of supporting the military. This year, the Knights sent more than 200 military personnel, their designated caregivers and volunteers to the Marian shrine in Lourdes, France, for a time of rest, prayer and healing as part of the annual Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage.

22) The Saint John Paul II National Shrine is a major initiative of the K of C. The shrine has a first-class relic of JP II's blood, and it is a great place to venerate the saint and remember his legacy.

23) There are 374 (and growing!) K of C councils on college campuses around the world.

The annual College Councils Conference is held in New Haven each fall.

24) The Knights are on a mission to save 1 million lives. Little is more moving than seeing an image of a baby growing in the womb. Since 2009, the Knights have funded many ultrasound machines at pregnancy care centers in all 50 states.

25) With the new Online Membership program, joining the Knights is easier than ever.

OUR MISSION

Knights are Catholic men who build a bridge back to faith. There is much good and necessary work to be done in this world, and that's what Knights do every day.

**YOU ARE BORN
A MAN.
YOU BECOME
A KNIGHT.**

Join today. Visit KofC.org/join-us

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Sign up!

Check us out on St.Jerome.online.org

WHY DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BAPTIZE BABIES?

The Catholic Church has been baptizing babies ever since Christ commanded His apostles to baptize all people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Parents bring their babies to the waters of baptism by professing a belief in Christ on behalf of the child, and promising to raise him or her in the faith.

Because baptism confers saving grace, the earlier a person comes to baptism, the better. In infant baptism, then, though the child is too young to have faith, the parents extend their faith on the child's behalf.

On what basis does the Church believe that the faith of one person may be effective on behalf of someone else? The Scriptures are full of examples in which Jesus extends healing grace to people based on the faith of others.

For example, Jesus forgives the sins of the paralytic based on the faith of those who brought him. Jesus heals the centurion's servant based on the faith of the centurion. Jesus exorcises the child's unclean spirit based on the father's faith. We might also note that in the Old Testament, God spares the firstborn child's life during the Passover based on the parent's faith.

Given these examples and others, we must ask ourselves: If God is willing to effect spiritual and physical cures for children based upon the faith of their parents, how much more will He give the grace of baptism to children based upon the faith of their parents?

Why Infants Need Baptism

Why do children need baptismal grace for salvation? Because they inherit original sin from the moment of conception.

The psalmist laments: "Indeed, in guilt was I born, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Ps 51:7).

The Book of Job observes: "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. ... Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one" (Job 14:1,4, RSV).

The apostle Paul tells us that "through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death" (Rom 5:12). He does not say that this sin is manifested only when the person reaches the age of reason. Rather, he writes, before baptism "we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest" (Eph 2:3).

Because babies are born with original sin, they need baptism to cleanse them, so that they may become adopted sons and daughters of God and receive the grace of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the kingdom of God also be-

longs to children. He never put an age limit upon those eligible to receive His grace (Lk 18:15-17; Mt 18:2-5). Children become "holy ones" of the Church and members of the body of Christ only through baptism.

Infant Baptism in the Early Church
Scriptures also demonstrate that the early Church baptized babies. In the Book of Acts, for example, St. Peter preached to the crowd: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." When St. Peter said the promise of baptism is for children, the word "teknon" also includes infants. This same word, teknon, is used later in Acts 21:21 to describe the circumcision of eight-day-old infants.

The Greek word for "household," oikos, refers to all the members of a family, adults as well as infants and children. The Book of Acts speaks of whole households being baptized, so any infants and children who belonged to these households would have been included.

St. Paul baptizes Lydia with "her household" (16:15); the entire household of Cornelius (see 10:48; 11:14); the Philippian jailer "and all his family" (16:33); and the "household of Stephanus" (1 Cor 1:16). In none of these accounts is there ever any indication that infants and children are excluded from baptism.

Baptism and Circumcision

Finally, in any discussion of infant baptism we should remember the correlation between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. Under the Old Covenant, babies were circumcised when they were eight days old. This was the sign by which they entered into the covenant. St. Paul actually calls baptism the "new circumcision" when he writes: "In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were

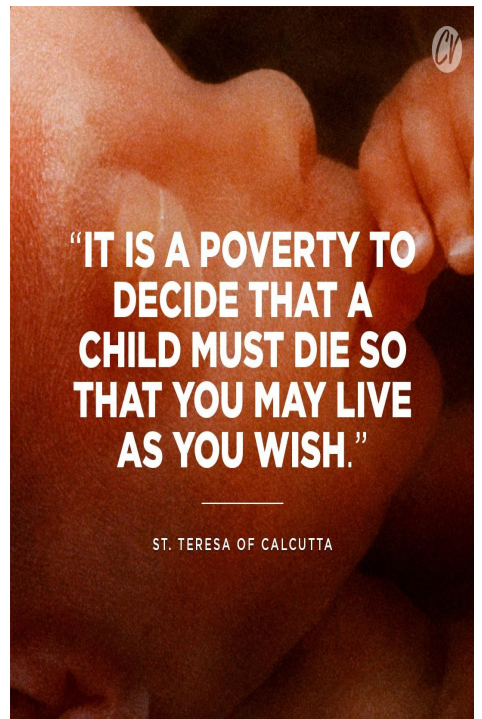
also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead" (Col 2:11-12).

Since baptism is the new circumcision of the New Covenant, baptism is for babies as well as adults, just as circumcision in the Old Covenant was for babies as well as adults. A covenant that excluded children would have been inferior to the original covenant. In reality, the grace of Jesus Christ and the New



Covenant surpasses that of the Old Covenant, to include not only infants but Gentiles as well.

God continues to extend His covenantal grace through the generations, then — not only to adults but to children as well, through the Church who offers His sacrament of baptism.



The Marian Spirituality team and the Knights of Columbus invite you to a Rosary procession around the pond and Peace Prayer at the Grotto following the 4 p.m. Mass on December 31. After the procession, refreshments will be served in the Parish Center. All are welcome!

