



Knight Life December 2018

Grand Knight Report

Dear Brothers,

Please keep Christ in Christmas! - Here's a list of activities for the upcoming month:

Morning/Day Retreat at St. Bart's starting with 8 AM Mass on 12/1. Hilvic at hilvicferrer1@aim.com or Ken at kenczar@gmail.com All Men of the Parish - Young and Old are welcome. Will be done by 12 O'clock.

12/8 - Clean out the junk out of the car port - old stuff from Yard Sale. Contact Leo at Insureit3@aol.com

12/9 Christmas with Santa - Need lots of Help! Contact Jack at jtm21365@hotmail.com sure to be fun!

12/15 - Wreaths Accross America - Laying wreaths - Contact Anthony annant66@verizon.net

Also on 12/15 - Christmas gathering after the 5 O'clock Mass in the Knights Hall - all are welcome - Contact Bill at blnagol@comcast.net (Holiday Cheer & Camaraderie - bring your significant other or friend) Free!

Christmas Day 12/15 - Merry Christmas! I am sure that Frank is going to ask for volunteers for helping out ushering at the various Christmas Masses - Please sign up - lots of help is needed there.

It's great to see new members joining the Council - Let's keep up the good work brothers and get some MORE new brothers in our Council. Ask someone today!

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and I hope you and your families have a Happy, Healthy & Fun Christmas. Please remember to pray the rosary.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Vivat Jesus,

Leo Fitzgerald- Grand Knight



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Faithful Navigator Message

Brother Knights of the Fourth Degree,

On Thursday November 8th we had our annual Veterans Luncheon at the VFW on Cranbury Road, to honor our Veterans from the Menlo Park Veterans home. Thanks to all the SK's that came out to help with this event. Thanks again to PFN –JR Myatt for preparing the food it was great.

On November 11th they had the Exemplification at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in AC. There were 154 new Sir Knights installed.

Saturday December 1st we will be having the first Annual "Mini-Retreat" at Saint Bartholomew. This event will start with the 8am morning Mass, and will continue thru noon with a light lunch served. This retreat is for all the members of the parish. Fr. Dario will be the main speaker, try to attend this event if possible.

All of the Usher positions have been filled for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 7 & 8. Thanks to all of the Brother Knights that volunteered I appreciate your dedication.

Orders for Knights Jackets are closed, four Knights Jackets have been ordered for those who have requested one. The next time I will ask for orders will be after the holidays.

At the present time we have 57 members of our Assembly. For the upcoming year let's try to persuade our third degree members of the council to join our ranks. Explain all of the Patriotic things we do and how it's a honor for them to achieve this degree. We need to increase our membership and have younger Knights to join us.

God Bless

Brother Frank – FN-PGK



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Upcoming Events & Meetings

- Dec. 1st – Advent Retreat
- Dec. 5th – Council Meeting
- Dec. 7th – First Friday
- Dec. 8th – House Cleaning
- Dec. 9th – Breakfast with Santa
- Dec. 12th – Assembly Meeting
- Dec. 15th - Wreaths Across America
- Dec. 15th – Corporate Mass & Council Christmas Party!
- Dec. 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

McGivney Association Update

No update at this time.

Get Involved

December is shaping up to be a busy month!

The Council can only be successful with your support!

What are you doing this month to make an impact?

Breakfast with Santa and Wreaths Across America are rapidly approaching, please see the respected Chairmen for more info!

Insurance Agency

Mr. John Forcella

Tel: 732-322-4008

E-mail: john.forcella@kofc.org

Rome Report

+Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Madison died the evening of Saturday, Nov. 24, at St. Mary Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, the diocese has announced. He was 71.

On Friday, the Diocese of Madison issued a statement saying that Morlino had suffered a “cardiac event” while undergoing scheduled medical tests on Wednesday. At the time, he was initially reported to be “resting.” On Saturday, Vicar General, Msgr. James Bartylla released an urgent prayer request saying that things had taken a turn and “it is likely that our hope lays in a miracle at this point.”

Membership

Membership is on the rise!

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to any male over the age of eighteen, who is a practical Catholic in good standing with the Church. For more information please visit [the Knights of Columbus website](http://theKnights of Columbus website). For other inquiries you may contact the Council Membership Director Joe Baker at jpabaker@aol.com or 570-580-8145.

The World Wide Web

Visit our Council website www.stbartskofc.com

Knight of Columbus Supreme Council is on Instagram [@kofc_offical](https://www.instagram.com/kofc_offical)

Our Facebook is [@ebknightsofcolumbus](https://www.facebook.com/ebknightsofcolumbus)



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Knight Life

If anyone has information or updates that they would like published in the Knight Life, please submit all requests to ebknightsofcolumbus@gmail.com before the 20th of each month. Each addition will be reviewed on an individual basis.

CONTACT US

Correspondence may be directed to us at:

St. Bartholomew K of C #11873

460 Ryders Lane

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Or via Email at, ebknightsofcolumbus@gmail.com

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Brother(s) Michael Lykes, and Chris Amabile who have both received the honors of the Knighthood (3rd) Degree on Nov. 23rd!

MEETINGS



Council Meetings: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning at 7:30PM.

Assembly Meetings: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month, beginning at 7:30PM.

Meetings are restricted to the membership. Any person wish to make an inquiry is able to do so 30 minutes before the meeting begins.



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Light Shines in Darkness: The Christmas Mystery – Rev. John Hanson

“You must look at the Child in the manger. He is our Love. Look at him, realizing that the whole thing is a mystery. We need to accept this mystery on faith and use our faith to explore it very deeply. To do this, we must have the humble attitude of a Christian soul. Let us not try to reduce the greatness of God to our own poor ideas and human explanations. Let us try to understand that this mystery, for all its darkness, is a light to guide men’s lives.”

St. Josemaria Escriva
“Christ is Passing By”, no.13

“Beloved: The grace of God has appeared” (Ti 2:11). The readings for the Mass of Christmas night highlight several *appearances*: from Isaiah, *a light has shone*; in St Paul, *The grace of God has appeared*; in St Luke’s Gospel, *the angel of the Lord appeared*, followed by a *multitude of the heavenly host*. All of these astonishing appearances occur because of the revelation of the human face of the Son of God: “For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Cor 4:6).

Where the appearances happen and to whom they come are very instructive: angels to shepherds in a field by night, light to people who sit in gloom and darkness, the grace of God and the light of the Gospel reach those in need of mercy and hope. In the mystery of His birth, the Lord teaches us that He can reach those places in our lives most in need of redemption. There is no corner so dark, no place within us so disordered and weak, that Jesus cannot come as Lord to save us.

This mystery, as St Josemaria hints at above, could be summed up in a golden sentence of St John’s prologue: “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5). At times when we might feel trapped or frustrated by our circumstances, embracing this truth will enable us to better appreciate why the Lord deliberately chose these inconvenient circumstances for His birth. Looking at the Child in the manger, and the trust He inspires in those near and far, helps us to see what the mystery of Light-in-darkness can accomplish in our lives.

Contemplating Bethlehem, we cannot pretend that it all makes sense or even that we would have chosen the same conditions for our own birth. That any child should be born in a place where animals gather for eating and sleeping is outrageous. We should see the circumstances of Christ’s birth as outrageous and yet chosen by Him—and hear the Spirit saying through St Paul: *These things happened for our instruction* (cf. 1 Cor 10:11). Christmas makes us witness the grace of God at work in unsuitable, even outrageous, circumstances so that we will never close ourselves off to God’s ways, and never lack the trust we need to follow them.



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When misfortunes come, when mistakes and even tragedies happen, it is very tempting to become absorbed by the evil or injustice—and even to give up. What could be more wrong than refusing lodging to a pregnant mother about to give birth? It's not always clear to us what is being accomplished when God permits adversity and hardship. But Christmas sends the unambiguous message that He is still at work: "For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, thy all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed" (Wis 1:14-15).

Whenever I celebrate Mass for inmates at juvenile hall on Christmas day, I always find myself focusing on these things in my homily. Prison is the last place that anyone would want to spend Christmas. Prison is also the last place where one would expect to find joy and peace. No one comes to prison by choice; they are sent against their will. Nor do any go in order to find God, or even forgiveness. And yet, I often tell the young people there: *That is why God has brought you here. God tripped you up, and God makes no mistakes.*

Stories are told about saintly Christians confined for years in concentration camps or in prisons who have found the Lord there in ways they never had before in their freedom. The prison is still a prison. The Christmas stable and the manger are still a cattle shed and a trough and nothing more. What makes all the difference is our receptivity to the mystery of God's will, of His inscrutable action in our lives—especially in those places that are dark and problematic. Without demanding to understand, we trustingly walk in the darkness of this world with only one light to guide us: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12).

A lack of clarity about some important aspect of our lives, such as making a serious decision, can paralyze us. At times we can feel almost overcome by some apparently insurmountable obstacle, or discouraged by an unforeseen setback. But more than clarity and certainty, the Lord wants us to have unbounded trust—enough so that we will ask for His light and then continue confidently on our journey, not waiting until things start making sense, but stepping out onto the path He opens for us, assured of His guidance and presence.

On Christmas night we see the Holy Family traveling to Bethlehem "in the dark," i.e., without assurance of lodgings. We see the shepherds rushing to the stable on the strength of a heavenly promise. When you trust in the Lord, the mystery is no longer to be feared, but followed. Even if we cannot comprehend the plan of God's saving actions, yet confident faith moves us to "try to understand that this mystery, for all its darkness, is a light to guide men's lives."

In fact, the day after Christmas the Church powerfully applies this truth in celebrating the martyrdom of St Stephen.

As St Stephen was breathing his last, offering up his spirit and forgiving his enemies, Saul was standing there taking it all in. At first, the zealous Pharisee was unimpressed. As far as he was concerned, Stephen was just one less Christian he had to deal with. Meanwhile the early Christians were grieved at losing such a holy man from their company.



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But the seeds had been planted; the impression had been made. And at least in terms of the scope of his missionary activity, there would be no greater Apostle than the convert St Paul.

Go to Jerusalem and see. Go to Bethlehem and see. See Stephen falling to the ground like a seed and Saul rising up like a righteous shoot. See shepherds and angels gathering around a cattle shed, faces to the ground, in adoration. After the birth of our Savior in a stable around the back of a crowded inn, people can never again doubt the presence and providence of God: "...even the darkness is not dark to thee, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with thee" (Ps 139:12).

When we bow over the manger on Christmas, and pray before the Infant, we are in the best position to show our openness to His ways and designs, and to cast away all of our human prudence. By affirming all of the circumstances of His first coming, we show that we are ready to accept Christ as He comes into our lives now, in sometimes unexpected ways. We show that we "approve" of His choices, that we adore His will, that we are happy to be the children of such a God: "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1:12).

We know how challenging it can be for us to serve such a God. We like to be in control—in control of our joys and sorrows—to follow a map of our own making. Christmas teaches us to surrender that control, because as we journey between the beautiful and sorrowful events of this world, the same Lord whose glory shined in the obscurity of a village stable, is ever taking our moments of light and darkness and making of them our path to glory.



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Saint Bartholomew

Knights of Columbus

Council #11873

Chaplain Rev. Thomas Walsh
District Deputy Scott Williams
Grand Knight Leo Fitzgerald
Deputy Grand Knight Jack Myatt
Financial Sec. Tom Garrett, SK
Treasurer Victor Santamarina
Chancellor JR Myatt
Recorder Ken Czarnecki
Warden John Parke
Inside Guard John Eustice
Outside Guard Helvic Ferrer
Lecturer Mike Spadafino
Advocate Paul Endler
3 Year Trustee Frank Gaudioso
2 Year Trustee Tom LaBue
1 Year Trustee Anthony Riccardella
Benefits Field Agent John Forcella

Saint Bartholomew

Knights of Columbus

Patriotic Degree Assembly #3583

Friar Rev Thomas Walsh
Navigator Frank Gaudioso
Comptroller Ken Czarnecki
Captain Greg Schpakow
Admiral John T. Myatt
Purser Rich Krempecki
Pilot John R. Myatt
Scribe Tom Garrett
Sentinel John Budzin
Sentinel John Eustice
Trustee Tom D'Amico
Trustee Tom Labue
Trustee Hilvic Ferrer Sr.

Council Chairmen

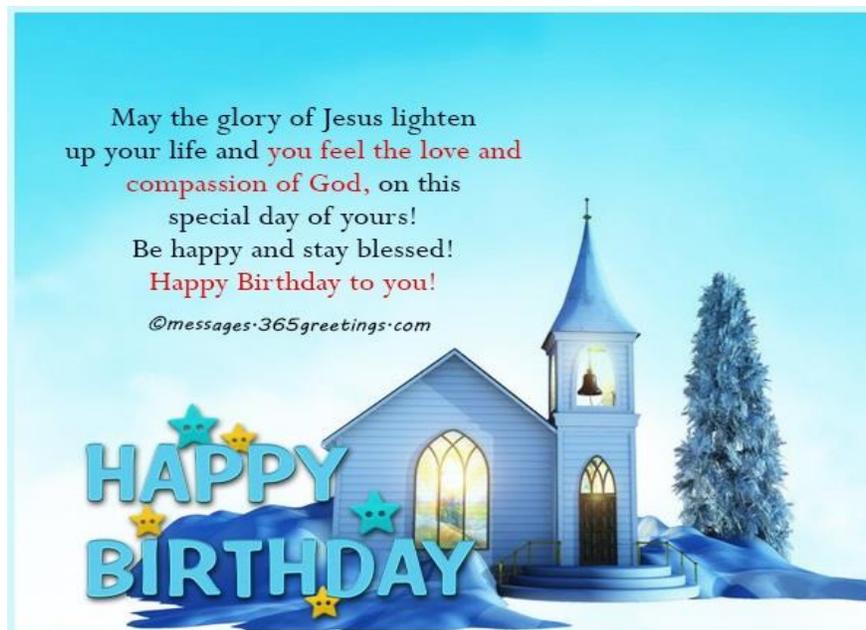
Membership Director Joe Baker
Family Life Director Ken Czarnecki
Sunshine Committee Tom Garrett
Youth Committee Bill Hills
Public Relations Chairman Joe Luciano



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Special Birthday Wishes!

Joseph Adochio 12/01	John McVicar 12/14
Piero Gioia 12/02	Michael O'Neill 12/18
Al Dombrowski 12/05	Joe Lanza 12/20
Charles Ilaria III 12/05	Albert Gonzalez 12/21
Tony Riccardella 12/05	Anthony Ahwal 12/24
August Papania 12/06	Michael Cioffi 12/26
Pete Gregory 12/07	Eugene Bottiglieri 12/28
Jerome Higgins Jr. 12/07	Michael Fox 12/28
John Hosie 12/09	Edward Sheridan 12/29
Mike Palombi 12/09	Robert Wilson 12/29
Vito Ferrara 12/10	John O'Kane 12/31
Norman Dumas 12/13	





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MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT



The Knights of Columbus would like to invite you
to join us for the

**St. Bartholomew Parish
2018 Men's Advent Retreat.**

During this time of fellowship we will discuss the
meaning of advent and how we can
prepare ourselves for the upcoming season.

When: December 1, 2018

Time: 8:00am - 12:45pm

Where: St. Bartholomew Parish
470 Ryders Ln
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Contact: Ken Czarnecki 732-429-9283
or
Hilvic Ferrer
hilvicferrer1@netscape.net

Register November 25, 2018
by:

This is a free event and will include a light lunch.
We look forward to meeting with you!

