



FATHER MURPHY COUNCIL 5535

Knights of Columbus

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THE CHRISTMAS SEASON - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Our Grand Knight's message on the next page well describes the spirit of Advent and Christmas. And, the schedule of Council events in the Calendar on page 3 and Norma Scott's article on page 4 detail a



Sulzbacher Christmas

number of holiday activities for your consideration. The members of our Council are very generous with both their time and treasure. Yet, tragically many in our community will be hungry this Christmas, and many children will not find a toy beneath their non-existent tree.

Our parish churches have "Giving Trees" contain names of needy families. This is a convenient method for us to share our plenty with those having little. St. Vincent de Paul, BEAM, and Sulzbacher Center are just a few other venues whereby you can help others to share the spirit of Christmas.

Help place the joy of the newborn Christ in others this Christmas.



BEAM Clothes Closet

Council 5535 December Newsletter

Mark's Gospel, adapted from Peter's letters first intended for Jews in Palestine, makes no mention of the birth of Christ. His audience, presumably, had knowledge of Christ's background.



Matthew and Luke, writing about ten years later to newly converted Jews and Gentiles, realized the need to instruct them in the complete story of Christ's life.

None of this saga had been written but was passed on only by oral tradition. Who, other than Mary, could have related to the evangelists the saga of Bethlehem and childbirth in a stable?

And so, almost certainly from Mary's lips we have the beautiful words recorded in Luke, *While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."

And so, once again we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Merry Christmas to all.

Vivat Jesus!



GRAND KNIGHT'S COLUMN



Brother Knights:

Thanksgiving occurred so late this year, so let me start by hoping that all had a good Thanksgiving and have come out of your food comas.

Here we are in the last month of 2013, half way through our Fraternal Year, and at the beginning of the season of Advent. Now is the time to take stock and to prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 25.

Last year I listed a few ideas how to celebrate the Christmas season in a more Catholic manner by "Keeping Christ in Christmas" (refer to the December 2012 newsletter on our website). Here are some more ideas.

OBSERVE THE ADVENT SEASON MORE EFFECTIVELY. Advent comprises the four Sundays and the weekdays leading up to Christmas, and we are asked to recall the events leading up to the Birth of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. It is NOT the 'Christmas Season'. It has its own carols, decorations, and customs ("O Come, Emmanuel"; the Advent Wreath; receiving the Sacrament of Penance). It is not a religious season for parties or gift-giving.

Merchants depend upon the "Christmas Shopping Season" to make their budgets work, but that is their own development and responsibility, not ours.

You might well greet people with "Blessed Advent!" instead of "Merry Christmas!" Be prepared to explain this to some who haven't a clue!

OBSERVE THE REAL CHRISTMAS SEASON during the proper 12 days. Sure, we might participate in and attend "Christmas Parties" at the workplace, clubs, neighbors, and families. But, with forethought and good planning, we can eventually begin to schedule our own Christmas parties during the real Christmas season (December 26th through January 6th). Note: the traditional "Twelve Days of (i.e., "after") Christmas" is from Dec 26th thru Jan 6th.

GREET PEOPLE WITH "MERRY CHRISTMAS" EVEN AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY. Until and including Epiphany. Yes, you will have to explain that this is still the Christmas season!

BE A CHRIST, NOT A GRINCH! Be really kind, gracious, and even a bit humorous. You are giving

witness to one of the two great Christian Mysteries, that of the Incarnation and (at Easter time) the Paschal Mystery.

I wish all of you a blessed, meaningful, and spiritual Advent, and a joyous Christmas time. Take this time to be with your families and be safe in your travels. During those times, may God be with you. Thanksgiving to all!

Conservi tui in Christi,

Dave Woodruff, GK

Father Murphy Council 5535
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Council 5535 Officers

2013-2014

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**BINGO DIRECTOR NOTES
CHUCK BOLL**



Bingo attendance continues to be great, and revenues generated for our charitable causes have been gratifying. Our problem continues to be the number of knights available to handle the various Bingo duties. We need callers, bingo-office personnel, and floor workers. In addition, ideally the snack bar/kitchen should have three men to hand the chores in optimal fashion.

For too long, we have relied on a handful of loyal knights to fulfill these duties each Sunday and Wednesday evening, and some of our colleagues are working too hard. So, if you can spare a few hours either or both of these evenings you will really help.

The rewards from this effort are several. First, as you can see in a couple of this month's photos, bingo profits assist many worthwhile charities in our area. Second, you will be surprised at the fun you will have. Our patrons at Bingo are a delightful collection of personalities with whom you will establish real friendship. Finally, the assistance you give to our charities helps to answer Christ's demand that we help those less fortunate.

Check with Chuck Boll and find out where you can help!

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES
MARK PARKULO**



No activities this month except for the Children's Christmas Party (See Below).



Calendar

December 2, 2013
General Business Meeting, Council Hall.
Light supper at 6:30 PM. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

December 5, 2013
Decorate the Council Christmas Tree

December 6, 2013
First Friday Mass and Dinner. Mass begins at 7 PM with dinner and Children's Christmas Party to follow.

December 7, 2013
Craft Fair in the Council Hall, 9 AM to 5:30 PM

December 14, 2013
Adult Christmas Party in the Council Hall, 7 PM

December 16, 2013
Council Officers' Meeting, Council Hall, 7 PM

December 21, 2013
Preparation and Distribution of Christmas Food Baskets, Council Hall, 9 AM

December 28, 2013
Penman Road Cleanup, 10 AM in the Council Hall

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ED MAXTED**



The Council has adequate funds to disburse donations. We have made generous donations for the past two months. Thanks to a healthy bingo we have a growing reserve. We must disburse most of this to retain our "non-profit" status. At the same time to retain enough to cope with any downturn in income, or other emergency.



We are making several generous contributions during Christmas season; thanks to those who work so hard to make this possible. A Blessed Christmas to all.

**Vietnam Veterans
of America**

Our very own Mike Montgomery has been instrumental in founding the local chapter of VVA and served as its first president. The chapter is conducting a raffle to raise funds to erect a memorial to all Vietnam Vets of all Military Services interned at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

To purchase tickets, call Jim Blache at 221-6710 or Mike at 463-2132.



HERO BAKER NEWS

NORMA SCOTT



All Knights' families are invited to partake of our HERO BAKER charity. Last year the auxiliary and the families of the Knights were able to serve 100 homeless children from 1 to 5 years of age, and it was a heart-warming project for all of us. This year the wives' goal is 25 stockings. Would your family like to be part of this charity and fill a stocking or two? I will have the stockings at the KC hall for our First Friday Mass on 6 December, and we will stuff them with goodies for homeless children. We will need small toys, crayons, tooth paste and tooth brush, candy, juice, socks, puzzles, and any small article that will make a child smile. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at gzscott@bellsouth.net. The filled stockings will be brought downtown to the HERO BAKER PARTY and be distributed to the children during the Christmas season. Thank you for sharing your blessings with these children of God. It is better to give than receive!



In 1992 the legal decision, *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey* established the “point of fetal viability,” the gestational age at which the infant has at least a 50% chance of survival, as the date beyond which the state can deny a woman’s access to abortion. Medical science has progressively lowered that “point of fetal viability.”

A recent article in *National Right to Life News* documented the case of little Ward Miles who was born at twenty-five weeks gestation, overcame tremendous difficulties in the neonatal nursery, and is now a thriving 16-month-old toddler.



**Ward Miles
10-Days Old**

Planned Parenthood scoffs at our Catholic belief that life begins at conception and attempts to convince their pregnant patrons that their bodies harbor only a clump of protoplasm, not a human life. Even more heinous, consider how many babies “beyond the point of fetal viability” - like Baby Ward - who are aborted each year in the *Planned Parenthood* facilities here in Jacksonville? Keep up your prayers. We are gaining in this battle!

THE CLERGY CORNER



POPE FRANCIS' FIRST MAJOR PUBLICATION

Lest there be any remaining doubt of his plans to be intimately involved in societal problems, in his first major policy statement, our new Pope took direct aim at the excesses of capitalism. Terming unfettered capitalism a “new tyranny,” he called on politicians to guarantee all citizens “dignified work, education, and healthcare.”

Citing the Fifth Commandment, he damned the “economy of exclusion and inequality” as one that kills. The Pontiff called for an overhaul of the international financial system and the unequal distribution of wealth. He maintained that, “As long as the problems of the poor are not resolved...and the structural causes of inequality [not corrected], no solution will be found for the world’s problems...”

He called for action “beyond a simple welfare mentality and begged for politicians generally disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor.”

Perhaps not since *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno* has a Pope entered so directly into the arena of economic social justice. It is very likely that many feathers will be ruffled as Pope Francis’ papacy moves forward.



NOVEMBER PHOTOS



Top row from left: DD Tom Guttisberg and Honored Guest Dennis Stoddard flank GK Dave Woodruff at the Third Degree Installation. Don Bruning admirably manned the kitchen for the event. Dewey Marshall and Dave Woodruff welcome new 3rd Degree Knight, Greg Nahm. Second row: An attentive group of Knights at the November Business Meeting. Dewey Marshall conducts the organizational meeting for the new Beach Assembly. Third row: Jerry Long, Chuck Boll, and Andy Abate present a check for \$2500 to *Dreams Come True*. The Eucharist, the centerpiece of our Faith and symbol for the 3rd Degree. Ed Maxted presents a check to a volunteer at Mission House. Bottom left: Who works harder for the Council than our Bingo Director, Chuck Boll?



FIELD AGENT'S REPORT - JEFF REGAN

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Our dedicated Insurance Field Agent, Jeff Regan, recently underwent his second knee operation and is rehabilitating satisfactorily at home. His lovely wife, Alice, is also recovering from ankle surgery. So, please keep the entire Regan family in your prayers, especially during this holy Christmas season.

Jeff has a sincere devotion to the well-being of our membership. He is very aware of the devastating tragedies of early death or disability. He can tell many stories of unfortunate circumstances in which knights were ill prepared for these sorry events.

He is proud to represent Knights of Columbus Insurance because of its excellent status in the profession and wide spectrum of appropriate and affordable

products. He will tell you that the Order

issued more insurance than ever in 2012 and now totals \$88 billion.

He will provide you with details

of new products, such as the Graded Premium Whole Life plan that makes whole life coverage more "budget friendly" than ever before. And, he will remind you of the increasing popularity of the K of C long-term-care and disability-income policies.

We are blessed to have such a talented field agent in our Council. Take advantage of his services. He can be reached at 904-325-4800 or Jeffrey.regan@kofc.org. Call him investigate your options.



December Birthdays

- December 2:** Sandy Carmichael
- December 6:** Al Alvarez
- December 9:** Nelson Gomez
- December 11:** Richard Dubay
- December 11:** William Hagerly
- December 11:** Christian Riendeau
- December 13:** Michael Conroy
- December 21:** Todd Moyer
- December 23:** Lester Wills
- December 24:** Michael Ballantine
- December 24:** Ronald Johnson
- December 24:** Oscar Sasan
- December 25:** Walter Harlick
- December 27:** Roger Beaudoin
- December 29:** Charles Franzoni
- December 30:** Francesco Anderson



Father Murphy Council 5535 Golden Anniversary - March, 2014 Dewey Marshall, Historian

Mark your calendar for our 50th anniversary, April 26, 2014, at St. Paul's Gym. Polynesian theme complete with Prince Pele's music and floor show and catered meal by Mahalika's restaurant.

Our Council has a long and proud history:

1986 1988 Grand Knight (PDD) James Blache: Ladies Auxiliary formed, *The Ladies of the Knights*. Supported the Beaches Little League Baseball team. Our 1st degree team certified by Past State Deputy, Clyde King. Provided Scholarships for St. Paul's Catholic School and Bishop Kenny Catholic school. On advice from the Columbian Association, Council began contracting hall clean up. Mime troop presented *The Passion* at St. Paul's Church. Received *Keep Christ in Christmas* award from Florida State Council. Brother David Harris nominated as Florida State Council Knight of the Year. Received Star Council from Supreme Council 1987 and 1988.

1988 1989 Grand Knight Angel Alvarez: Received *Keep Christ in Christmas*, and *Giuseppe Award* from Florida State Council. Received the *Father McGivney* and *Columbian Award* from Supreme.

1989 1990 Grand Knight David Harris: Commenced Bingo on Wednesday nights. Council purchased a Gazebo for Harbor House that was blessed by Bishop Snyder. Council sent a truck load of needy items for hurricane Hugo relief for the victims in South Carolina. Council celebrated its Silver anniversary. Council approved a motion that all functions and events at the council will be no charge to members and family. *Hole in the Wall* was christened at the Council Hall. Received *Keep Christmas* and *Giuseppe Award* from Florida State Council. Received Star award from Supreme Council.