

The Real Meaning of Christmas

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2: 4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWSLETTER

MOTHER SETON COUNCIL #6724

BRANDON , FL

DECEMBER 2014

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!

Herbert Swoope

Grand Knight PFN,

Council 6724, Nativity

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MOTHER SEATON

COUNCIL 6724 OFFICERS

Grand Knight **Herbert Swoope** **(813) 628-0699**

Deputy Grand Knight **Chris McManus** **(813) 389-8123**

Knight

Chancellor **Dean Jacobson**

Recorder **OPEN**

Treasurer **Mark Nebolsky**

Advocate **Howard Baum**

Warden **Neil Waid**

Guards **Georg e Giragosian**

Trustees - 3yr **John Houseman**

Trustees - 2yr **Goscinski Michael**

Trustees - 1yr **Marc Andersen**

Lecturer **Don Clark**

Chaplin

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

December 15, 2014

Dear Knights of Columbus Officers and Youth Leaders,

You are receiving this notification because your official position in Knights of Columbus has been identified as key in ensuring that Knights of Columbus continues to maintain its strong commitment to youth protection and providing one of the safest environments for young people today.

The Board of Directors of Knights of Columbus has designated the following official positions in Knights of Columbus to receive mandatory Presidium Armadas online safe environment training: State Deputies, State Squires Chairmen, State Youth Directors, Grand Knights, Youth Directors, Columbian Squires Chairmen, Chief Counselors, Committee Counselors, and Faithful Navigators (if their assembly sponsors a Circle).

Beginning January 5th 2015, Presidium, the organization Knights of Columbus has partnered with to maintain our strong commitment to youth protection and safe environment will be sending out email invitations with your user name and password to enable you to take the mandatory Presidium Aratus online safe environment training. If you have not previously shared your email with us, please send it to youthleader@kofc.org immediately.

Additionally, when applicable, Presidium will send a second email to request your authorization to undergo a background check.

You must complete the Presidium armadas online training and background check authorization within 30 days of receipt of each email. Your failure to do so within 30 days may render you ineligible to hold your official position in Knights of Columbus. Your cooperation and participation in these essential components of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program ensure that you are doing your part to keep children safe in Knights of Columbus programs and activities.

Fraternally,

George Hanna,

Senior Vice President for Fraternal Services

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KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CAR MAGNETS ARE HERE!



The always popular "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets are here. Back to the classic Manger design for this year the magnets are available

For \$5 each and will be sold at the December business meeting.

If you order by PayPal, when completing the PayPal, <Add a Message to the Seller> advice when you can pick up the item (Business Meeting or Social).

After each Mass on Sunday's Marty Condon is taking lead on this project.

I'm sure he could use some HELP. You can contact Marty at 813-684-7869.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship



Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus International Free Throw Championship for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 (starting in the fraternal Year 2013-2014)

The championship is set up to have the contestants compete within their own gender And age group. All competition starts at the local level. Winners move on to the district, Regional, and state or provincial levels. From there, some make it to the international Level for championship competition in their group.

Free Throw

To sponsor a competition, all your council needs is the Free Throw Championship Kit (#FT-KIT), a couple of basketballs, a hoop and a bunch of kids. It is a great way to get out into the public and introduce the Order to your community — while providing youths with a rewarding activity that yields a chance for local, state or provincial, and international recognition.

Bishop John Barres of Allentown, Penn., a former collegiate basketball player at Princeton University, is a strong supporter of the Free Throw Championship. He sees the focus and discipline required to achieve athletic excellence as being valuable in the faith formation and character development of young people. In addition, healthy competition helps young people to handle both good fortune and adversity with grace and dignity.

Insurance for Knights

Since our founding in 1882, the primary mission of the Knights of Columbus has been to protect families from the financial ruin caused by the death of the breadwinner.

In the beginning, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney and his fellow Knights “passed the hat” to benefit widows and orphans.

From that humble start, the Order has grown to include top-rated life insurance, long-term care insurance and retirement products.

With more than \$80 billion of insurance in force and a full-time field force of more than 1,400 serving our members and their families, we are proudly fulfilling Fr. McGivney’s vision.

The best way to learn about our products is by arranging a visit with a local field agent. Your agent can custom design an insurance program to meet your current needs, help you plan for the future or simply explain the many fraternal benefits that come with membership. To Family Fraternal Benefits

Family Fraternal Benefits

Family Fraternal Benefits Being a member of the Knights of Columbus is an opportunity to be part of the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. Being an insured member means you’ve taken full advantage of the benefits of membership. Avail yourself and your family of our full line of life insurance, retirement and long-term care products and you’ll help chart a course to safe waters in your financial future.

In addition to our strong, secure products, there are Family Fraternal Benefits that can help our members facing unique needs. Many of these benefits are unique to the Knights of Columbus and our members. Some of these benefits include:

Guaranteed life insurance benefits for uninsurable children

Death benefits available for stillborn or miscarried children

Orphan benefits

Member/spouse accidental death benefits contact the agent in your area, use our convenient Find an Agent feature.

To learn more about insurance or our products, please use the links on this page. To get a rough estimate of the amount of life insurance protection you and your family need, use our Life Insurance Calculator. The Knights of Columbus is Your Shield of Protection for Life. Protects your most important asset - your income - in the event of a disability.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Mother Seton Council held its annual Christmas Party at the Youngling Brewery Visitor's Center on Saturday December 6th. Guests included Brothers and their families from the Mother Seton Council, and Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly as well as representation from the Lopez School for Exceptional Children. Grand Knight Herb Swoope led the evening as our holiday DJ, while Brothers Joe Clemis, John Houseman and Neil Waid along with some other family members and Brothers did all the cooking and Food Prep. Special recognition goes to head chef Joe Clemis for his awesome lasagna!

Santa made an appearance and gave Teddy Bears to all the little Girls and Boys in attendance. If you recall the Council and Assembly pitched in to purchase over 100 little Teddy Bears. The bears were not only for gifts for our children, but the remainder (nearly all as we only had 9 kids at the party) will be given to the State Troopers to hand out to help little children in distress at accident scenes and other interactions with the Troopers. Be rest assured the Teddy Bears not only made our little ones smile, but will go on well into next year to bring comfort to little ones in their hour of need.

There were many door prizes (again all donations from Brother Knights) and a game of Dirty Santa/White Elephant, that actually only saw one of 12 gifts actually "stolen", so it was definitely one of the cleanest Dirty Santa games around! The evening wrapped up with our 50/50 drawing that saw PGK Marc Andersen take home the Grand Prize. Marc's newborn made his Knight's debut much to everyone's delight, and we're sure the winnings will be put to good use!

Special Thanks to PGK John Houseman for arranging the facility and to all our friends at Yuengling for all their generosity and support of the Knights! Check out the website for pictures of the Christmas Party (www.KofCBrandon.com), and keep checking it for all of our Social, Charitable and Community Events! Merry Christmas to All and Have a Happy and safe New Year!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWSLETTER

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Knights of Columbus Mother Seton Council has donated \$1,000 to the Catholic Schools Foundation for the establishment of the annual Knights of Columbus Scholarship. This perpetual endowment will allow the Mother Seton Council to provide partial scholarships to students at Nativity Catholic School each year on a need basis.

CHRISTMAS BEARS

IT'S GETTING TO BE THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. Christmas will have you inspired to create a party full of love, laughter and great company. As I was thinking about our Christmas PARTY

I began to think about our children. What are we going to do for our children? Then it hit me.

What about giving each child a 6'TEDDY BEAR. The more I thought about this the better it sounded.

Rather than take money out of the budget I am asking any Knight who wishes to make a donation

To this project get with me. The cost for 100 teddy bears at wholesale price would be around \$200.00.

You might ask what we are going to do with any leftover teddy bears. Our plans are to take

Any leftover teddy bears WILL GO TO THE STATE POLICE. This is a great Opportunity for our council to do something different for our youth.

God Bless

Herbert Swoope

Grand Knight

Council 6724, Nativity



DECEMBER 2014

Prayer for the Sick

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviates our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grants us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen.

Bob Yelton

Darlene Westbrook

Jerry Westbrook

Our Service Men and Women and Veterans

Linda Boes



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DAVID R CURFMAN

JAMES JOSEPH KING

ANTONIO M RITA

THOMAS W SANJURJO

MARK D SMITH

DONALD P CLARK

HARRY J MORAN

JAMES E SIMS

JOSEPH E GORGACZ

THOMAS P SCHULTZ

ELMER STEVEN KEMPE

PETER J MC NEILL

EDDIE GUADALUPE

CHARLES W LANGLINAIS

WILFRED S CARABALLO

MICHAEL W HENDRICKS

NOEL BLANCHET

FRANCIS X SHANNON

STEPHEN URBANSKI

JESUS MARTINEZ

JOHN REDHEAD

Advent, Christmas, and New Years

Confessions

Monday, December 15th, Parish Reconciliation Service

In the Church 7:00 p.m.

14 Priests will be hearing confessions

Christmas Mass Schedule 2014

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th

English

4:00 p.m. Church (Family)

4:00 p.m. Gym

7:30 p.m. Gym

11:00 p.m. Carols

Midnight Church (Bilingual)

Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25th

English

7:00 a.m. Church

8:30 a.m. Church

10:30 a.m. Church

New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31st

4:00 p.m. Vigil Church

Thursday, January 1st

7:00 a.m. Church

8:30 a.m. Church

10:30 a.m. Church



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TURKEYS VAVS

On Monday the 24th of November 65 turkeys were purchased from The Publix in Valrico by Assembly 1850 for delivery to our homeless vets here in Hillsboro County. The birds and all the "fixens" were received by the 46th St. Station representing the VAVS. This is the 4th year 1850 has been able to raise enough money to support our vets in this way. We wish to thank, not only those directly involved in the process, but all those knights and their families, who give throughout the year. This was a joint venture with St. Stephen Council, being a heavy contributor to the meals and their monthly food supplies. Proceeds from our "Sock Hop" go directly to the VAVS for this Thanksgiving Event and the Christmas Party on December 6th. at Haley Cove Nursing Home..@.11:30. Please attend and show your continuing support for these men and women, who have themselves given so much to our country and our way of life.

Bill Queenan, pfn, VAVS Rep.



CHRISTMAS WITH OUR VETS


On Saturday the 6th of December Assembly 1850 sponsored our annual Christmas party for our brave heroes at the Haley Cove nursing Home. More than 100 attended and were offered a pizza lunch and entertained by "The Dancers from Brandon". Our expenses were \$539.96 for food and presents (socks, T-shirts, wash cloths, candy boxes, magazines and DVD's). When our vets come in contact with our knights and their families, especially at this time of the year, the uplifting of their spirits is undeniable. We should never forget the great sacrifices they have made for our way of life to endure. Our participation in events like this play a big part in making their lives more bearable. A hardy "WELL DONE" to all our brothers for your help. We have secured April 11th for our "Spring BBQ for the Vets" at the nursing home. (The first Saturday after Easter) Bill Queenan, Rep pital.





MERRY CHRISTMAS



~ December 2014 ~							January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 COUNCIL MEETING 7:30 P.M. ADULT ED BUILDING NOV. 11 COLOR CORP VA HOPITAL	2	3	4	5	6 COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00-10:30 PM VA CHRISTMAS PARTY 11:00 PM	
7	8	9	10	11	12 Assembly 1850 Business Meeting 7:30 pm 	13	
14	15	16 FIRST DEGREE AT NATIVITY	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30 OFFICERS MEETING 7:30 PM ADULT ED	31	Notes :FAMILY OF THE MONTH KNIGHT OF THE MONTH			