NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER / JANUARY 2015



Christopher Council, No. 3182

Meetings Held on the First and Third Tuesdays of each Month at 8 PM

Chaplain Rev. Oscar H. Frundt 302-383-3686

Grand Knight Dominic DiChristopher, Jr. 302 562 4492 (C)

Deputy Grand Knight James R. Vanwasshenova 734 771-0117 (C)

Financial Secretary Michael F. Panfile, PSD 610 874-5064

Treasurer Paul E. Rapposelli 302 762-3435

Chancellor Dominic Di Christopher, III 302 562-9024 (C)

Advocate Raymond W. Cobb 302 655-2899

Lecturer Deacon Richard J. Maichle 302 798-3137

Recorder Daniel L. Goodine 302 757-5886 (C)

Warden Bryan M. Jones 302 798-1706

Inside Guards Stephen Schaefer Charles R. Schiliro

Outside Guards Joseph Gatone, Jr. Richard P. McCann

Trustees

Joseph M. Zecca, PGK Richard S. Johnson, DD Brian R. Dennis, PGK

Membership Paul Coulston

General Program J. R. Vanwasshenova, DGK

Church William F. Northey, PGK J. R. Vanwasshenova, DGK

Council Brian R. Dennis, PGK

Family Neal J. Potts

Youth William R. Moshelle

Pro-Life James B. Vandergast, DD

Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights and Families:

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have already been celebrated and we will be engulfed in the spirit of Christmas.

This is an important time of year to think about why we are here and how are we measuring up in the eyes of the Lord. It is the season of giving which reminds us of the lesson of our First Degree - Charity. Although we work hard all year long in providing help for those in need, the Christmas season challenges us to do even more, because that's what knights do!

We are steaming to the half-way point of our Columbian Year and what a time it has been, continuing the good works that this council has been doing for years. We are seeing a renewed spirit as well. We have had two extremely successful family events which help us enjoy time with our families. We need to thank them for allowing us to spend the time away from them in service to our churches and communities. I have spoken of the fishing trip before, even though we never pulled in a fish or let down our lines, it was over. Not a problem for our fraternal brothers and families who split into two groups (fishing and non-fishing) and had a nice enjoyable day and a commitment to do it again ... this time in the ocean! The hay ride drew 63 brothers and their families and included seven guests from Child Inc., and although it cost me my wedding band (lost during the fun), it was another incredibly successful and great event, simply doing what we do, serving our communities with hard work and fun.

On the membership front we conducted two church drives on consecutive weekends netting over twenty potential candidates who seemed quite eager to know more about us. Great job by **Paul Coulston**, **Jim Vandergast** and the many brother knights who manned the doors. We sponsored a Second Degree at our council in October which produced eight new Third Degree Knights at Holy Child the following week. Lastly we will have had a first degree on November 18 which is expected to produce at least six new brothers to our council, many are young and enthusiastic, a great mix for us.

December and January are filled with events, please check the calendar and do what you can to help or support us in our



service missions. We need all able-bodied brothers to engage, even for only one event, to help us '*raise the bar*' of our support in our communities. There is so much more we can do, we need only the 'good ideas' and the leadership and manpower to accomplish

our goals. We always welcome fresh ideas and there is no such thing as having too many good leaders or too much support.

In closing the council Christmas party will be held on our regular social meeting night, Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 in our council home. This event is open to all brother knights and their spouses, and admission is free. All we suggest is that you either make a small donation to our 'Community Care' program or bring a non-perishable food items that we will give to our local outreach offices, whose shelves are emptied at this time our year. To reserve your spot please RSVP directly to me by December 9 at **ddichristopher@verizon.net**. We have some surprises planned for this fun-filled and enjoyable evening.

My family and I offer our sincere best wishes to you and yours, for a very safe, holy and heathy Christmas Season, and a very Happy New Year!

Enjoy and rest up. Your council needs you!

Fraternally yours,

Dominic DiChristopher, Jr. *Grand Knight*

Vivat Jesus!

Chaplain's Message - Father Oscar Frundt

First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2014

Advent is an important four-week period that involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. It should be a season of prayer, fasting and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and joy.

Advent is a time to reflect and prepare for Christmas similar to how Lent is a preparation for Easter. Advent has sometimes called the "Winter Lent" or "Little Lent".

Purple is historically the main color used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and is the color of royalty to welcome

the coming of the King (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ as King in his second Advent.

As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent,

this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent Wreath, which consists of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs. The Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the Gaudete Sunday.

In the busy weeks ahead as we prepare for Christmas, let us not loose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior. Let make certain that as Catholic families we are prepared to welcome the Christ Child in our hearts. Let us keep remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

I want to wish all my Brother Knights and their families a blessed Christmas, and much health and happiness in the New Year. I will remember you all in my Christmas Mass. God bless you and your families!

Father Frundt

REMINDERS

Council Christmas Party - Tuesday, November 16 - 6:30 p.m.

Deadline for reservations - December 9 - email to Grand Knight @ ddichristopher@verizon.net.

Community Care Program - Mail donation today to make Christmas a little brighter for the needy.







Council News

COUNCIL ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY TUESDAY - DECEMBER 16, 2014

The Christopher Council Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 16, 2014 at the Council Home. Festivities will get underway at 6:30 p.m. We are hopeful that all members and their wives will plan to be on hand to join in the fun and seasonal merriment.

To make certain that Santa is prepared for everyone, the Grand Knight has requested that you notify him by December 9 at **ddichristopher@verizon.net** with the total planning to attend.

This party is open to all brother knights and spouses. In place of a ticket price, we suggest a donation to our "Community Care" program or a non-perishable food items for our local outreach programs.

WELCOME - NEW SIR KNIGHTS

Congratulations are extended to our new Sir Knights, **Dominic Di Christopher, III** and **Bryan Jones**, our Council's Chancellor and Warden respectively, who received the highest honors of our Order at the Fourth Degree Exemplification at the Christiana Hilton on November 15, 2014. Welcome, Sir Knights!

COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

Christopher Council is again soliciting funds to help make this holiday a little more pleasant for those less fortunate in our community. We have sponsored this program for many years and have raised thousand of dollars for the outreach programs of Holy Rosary and St. Helena Churches.

Every dollar received will be given back in its entirety to the community. The extent to which we are able to make a difference and help to brighten the holidays for our neighbors depends directly on your generosity.

Please make checks payable to: "Christopher Council, No. 3182", and mail to: Community Care Program, 135 Princeton Avenue, Claymont, Delaware 19703

IN MEMORIAM

We have recently learned of the passing of:

Robert B. Murzyn

Brother Murzyn was a Life Member of Christopher. Our sympathy and prayers go out to his family.

CONGRATULATIONS!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

October Neal and Brenda Potts

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

October Paul Coulston

CHRISTOPHER BOWLING TEAM

Christopher Council's bowling team is one of six teams that compete in the State Council Bowling League. Bowlers meet weekly on Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Bowlerama Lanes in New Castle. If you are interested in joining this fraternal event, please contact team captain, **Rick Johnson**, for all the particulars.

VOCATION ESSAY CONTEST

This youth program is chaired by **DD Jim Vandergast**. The Religious Education students at Holy Rosary and St. Helena churches are participating. The essay topic for students grades 5 - 8 is "Who Has Been The Most Positive Influence On Your Catholic Faith and Why?" All essays are to be 200-250 words. These essays will be judged by Christopher Council and the local winners will be forwarded to State Council for statewide judging.

COUNCIL FREE THROW CONTEST

Council Youth Director, **Bill Moschelle**, has announced tentative plans for this program. The basketball free throw contest is open to *all* boys and girls, ages 9-14 (not just those associated with the parishes or K of C), and is scheduled for the morning of Sunday, January 11, at St. Helena's gym. Contact Bill at pmanager@hrparish.com to help with this effort. Again, plans are tentative.

CHRISTOPHER COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Delaware State Council website is www.dekofc.org. From the Home Page click on **Councils Web Sites**, then click on Christopher Council. Be sure to bookmark the page. Visit frequently to stay current with council events and last minute changes to our calendar. The direct URL is www.jraughley.com/3182.html.

Council News

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY - DECEMBER 20, 2014

Word has been received from the North Pole that Santa will be visiting the children at the council on **Saturday**,

December 20. Festivities will get underway at 10 a.m. Santa will have a sleigh filled with presents for all the children and the elves will be serving ice cream, sodas, cookies and candy.



The party is open to the children and grandchildren of members up to and

including those **nine (9) years of age**. To make certain that Santa has sufficient gifts for all the children attending, **reservations must be made for the Children's Chistmas Party.** A sign-up sheet will be available at the club starting November 28 through December 12 where the name and age of each child needs to be listed. Make sure to sign up now so that no children are disappointed.

COUNCIL POKER NIGHTS

Fourth Friday of Every Month

Friday, December 26, 2014 Friday, January 23, 2015

Our monthly Poker Nights continue to provide the Council with funds that enable us to perform our many charitable works. Poker runs from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the fourth Friday of every month. We always need help with food preparation and card dealers. Thanks to all who contribute their time to make these Poker Nights a success.

Please contact Chairman, **Rick Johnson**, if you are able to assist in this program.



Our Knights of Columbus Insurance Field Agent is:

Richard Gill (610 485-8550) Richard.Gill@KofC.org

Call Rick today to check out current rates and to answer any questions regarding current coverage or future needs.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had two very successful membership drives during the month of October. Council members were at all the Masses on the weekend of 17-18 at Holy Rosary Church. The following weekend was a repeat performance at St. Helena Church. I am grateful to the many members who took time to greet parishioners and speak with potential candidates. Over 20 parishioners expressed interest in learning more about the Knights of Columbus. Hopefully many who expressed interest will be taking their First Degree in the coming months.

Let us continue to focus on offering our Catholic relatives and neighbors the opportunity to join us in experiencing the fraternal bond that we as Knights share. Vivat Jesus!

Paul Coulston Council Membership Director

BINGO WORKERS NEEDED 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Workers are still needed to help out with Bingo at Holy Rosary Church on the second Tuesday of each month.

Carlos Rivera and **Bill and Kathy Northey** are currently holding down the fort and could really use some more help. For additional information, please contact our council coordinator, **Bill Northey** at 798-8272.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Michael F. Panfile, PSD 100 E. Parkway Avenue Chester, Pennsylvania 19061 610 874-5064

Council dues are \$20 per year and are collected on an calendar year basis beginning in January. The 2015 dues are being collected and should be mailed now to our Financial Secretary, **Mike Panfile**. Make checks payable to: "Christopher Council, Knights of Columbus".

Our Financial Secretary likewise coordinates all council information. Please keep Mike informed when a member is seriously sick, hospitalized or dies so that our members can be advised.

Any Brother Knight who is not a Third Degree member should contact Mike to determine the schedule for taking their Second and Third Degrees.

Delaware State Council News

ANNUAL DECLAMATION CONTEST Sunday - December 14, 2014

State Council will be holding its Annual Declamation Contest for students, grades 5-8, at St. Anthony of Padua Grade School, 9th and Scott Streets, Wilmington on Sunday afternoon, December 14.

This event is being chaired by **Mike Panfile** once again. Members of Christopher Council have always supported this effort in the past by serving as judges, moderators and time/scorekeepers. If able to assist in this regard, please contact Mike at mikepanfile@gmail.com to let him know. The registration for students will begin at 12:30 p.m. and all workers are asked to be on hand by 11:30 a.m.

WINTER WEEKEND 2015 January 23-25, 2015

The Knights of Columbus invites you, your family and friends to the 2015 Winter Weekend on January 23-25 at the Princess Royale in Ocean City, Maryland.

Single/double rate 1/24-25: \$131 per night. Single/double rate 1/23: \$115 (minimum 2 night stay). Children 12 and under free in parents room. Check-in 4:00 PM Check-out 11:00 AM.

Reservations by Monday, December 22, 2014. Make checks payable to KofC Delaware State Council. Please mail reservations with check to: Jack Dirr, 102 Providence Drive, Bear, DE 19701

CHAPLAINS' NIGHT Monday, January 19, 2015

Delaware State Council is holding its Annual Dinner to recognize and honor Council Chaplains and Assembly Friars on Monday evening, January 19 at the Executive Club off Rt. 896 in Newark. Cost is \$35 per person.

Christopher Council traditionally has had major attendance at this program with Chaplain, **Fr. Frundt**, former council chaplain, **Fr. Edward Stock** and local pastors, **Fr. Stanley Russell** and **Fr. John Gayton**.

Reservations should be coordinated with Grand Knight, Dom DiChristopher.



2015 Annual March for Life

This year will mark the 41st anniversary of the nowinfamous Supreme Court decision in Roe v Wade and the March for Life is now the largest pro-life event in the world. This peaceful demonstration is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, legalized abortion on demand.

The annual March for Life Rally is scheduled at 12 noon on *Thursday, January 22, 2015* on the National Mall. The March begins immediately after the rally heading up Constitution Avenue to the U. S. Supreme Court Building on Capitol Hill.

As the time draws closer, check your parish bulletins and TheDialog for the listings of bus transportation from Delaware to our Nation's Capital.

TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE

Delaware State Council takes part in vigils held on Saturday mornings beginning at 7:00 a.m. in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 625 North Shipley Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

Another abortion clinic in now open in Wilmington at 1815 W.13th Street (the Station) on the second floor of the building. Please come out on Thursday and Fridays from 8-11 when abortions are performed.

For questions or additional information, please contact Pro-Life Chair, **DD Jim Vandergast**, at 302 765-2264 or email to jnv1212@verizon.net.

Delaware Right to Life is guided by the principle that all human life is precious and deserving of protection.

STATE INFORMATION MEETINGS

Delaware State Council regularly holds an informational meeting on the second Thursday of every month. The State Officers, District Deputies, Directors, Grand Knights, etc. regularly attend, but it open to all Knights.

In January 2015 Christopher Council will be hosting this meeting. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and followed by the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Council members are urged to attend and take advantage of the proximity in January.

Club News

BRANDYWINE CLUB HALL RENTAL

The River Room, which is located on the river-side of the Brandywine Club, can be rented for small parties and get-togethers. It is a great way to keep the house mess free.

The River Room can comfortably accommodate groups of 75-85 and is ideal for family birthdays, anniversary parties, bridal or baby showers and funeral receptions.

The rental cost is very reasonable: \$260 for 4 hours but discounted for council and social members at only \$210. Affordable catering and bar service is also available. The room is air conditioned with plenty of parking.

To book the River Room or check on availability, please contact **Karen**, our day-time bartender (798-9891), **Bill Northey** (798-8272) or **Denny Harris** (475-0728).

BRANDYWINE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY - DECEMBER 21, 2014

Our Club Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, **December 21, 2009**. As in prior years, this year's party will again be an afternoon jam session from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. A DJ will be on hand with food being served for the duration. There is no admission charge for this event. It is our way of saying thank you for your support and wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on December 21.

CLUB DECORATION PARTY Monday, December 1, 2015

If you are seeking that perfect way to break into the holiday spirit, we may have just the answer for you. On Monday evening, December 1, we will be breaking out the beautiful decoration to give our club and council home that special Christmas look for the season.

There are several large trees to trim and many wreaths and other decorations needing that special place to hang. Members and wives are cordially invited to take part in this holiday tradition. Reservations are not needed, but plan to show up early so that you are not disappointed that every thing is finished when you arrive.

BRANDYWINE CLUB NEWS

Quarter Book and Dollar Book Drawings

For many years, the Club has conducted attendance drawings. You must be on the premises to sign the books, but you need not be present to win.

The Quarter Book is drawn daily at 8 p.m. If your name is drawn and you have signed the quarter book, you can win up to \$100. The Dollar Book is drawn weekly on Friday evening and if you name is drawn and you have signed the dollar book, you could win up to \$500.

When at the Club, don't forget to sign the books. The money can come in handy this time of year.

Super Bowl Blocks and Party

Plans are underway for a Super Bowl Party at the club on February 1. As the date draws closer, we will be providing more information. Plan now to be with us to watch the game.

Super bowl blocks will be available at the club. Blocks are randomly selected and are always a source of fun, more so when you win.

Keys to Club Changed at End of Year

Council members can purchase a key from the bartender for entry to the club/council premises. As a private club our doors must remain locked at all times. Once a key is obtained it may be exchanged for a new key without charge. Extra keys can be purchased as well. Under no circumstances should you allow someone to enter unless you are absolutely certain they are a member.

NEW YORK CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP

The Brandywine Club in conjunction with Boscov's is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on Wednesday, December 10. The bus will leave at 7:45 a.m. and will return home by 9:30 that evening.

The trip includes orchestra seats to the 2 p.m. Christmas Show with the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. Also included is dinner at Planet Hollywood before returning home. The price of the ticket is \$160.00. There will also be free time for sightseeing and shopping.

For further information or to reserve a seat on the deluxe motor coach, contact Karen (798-9891) at the club.

Newsletter Editor: John M. Raughley

We welcome news from all members. Please forward information to jmraug@gmail.com or contact by phone at 610 361-8402.

Birthdays from December 1 through January 31

CLAYMONT CHRISTMAS PARADE Saturday, December 6, 2014

For as long as we can remember Christopher Council has had a presence in the Annual Claymont Christmas Parade. The staging area for the parade is Maple Lane. From there the parade will proceed north on the Philadelphia Pike to Governor Printz Blvd.

For the past several years Christopher Council sponsors a float with the "Keep Christ in Christmas" theme. Our members march along the parade route displaying our Council banner. Over the years we have distributed candy canes and have had Sir Knights from Mardaga Assembly march with us in color.

The float will be decorated at the Council Home early Saturday morning around 7:30 a.m. Jack Smith Towing supplies the truck. We will need to arrive at the staging area by 9:30 a.m.

The parade always provides a lot of enjoyment and we are always well received with applause from the spectators along the route. Plan to join in the fun this year.



POLAR BEAR PLUNGE for Special Olympics Sunday, February 1, 2015

The Polar Knights of Delaware State Council in support of the Delaware Special Olympics will once again be braving the cold elements and plunge into the Atlantic Ocean at Rehoboth Beach to raise money for the Special Olympics athletes.

Although many members from Christopher Council have plunged over the years, the Council's Main Polar Knight



is **Don Lewis**. Don has been diving into the Atlantic Ocean for many years and has raised thousands of dollars in pledges for Special Olympics Delaware. Pledges can be made directly to Don or may be brought to the council meetings. Our thanks is extended to Don for representing us for so many years.

The mission of Special Olympics Delaware is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for 3,500 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Schedule of Events

DECEMBER 2014

DEC	EMBER 2014						
1	Monday	Club Decorating Party	Council Home	7:00 PM			
2	Tuesday	Council Officers' Meeting	Council Home	7:00 PM			
2	Tuesday	Council Business Meeting	Council Home	8:00 PM			
6	Saturday	Planned Parenthood Vigil	625 N. Shipley Street	7:30 AM			
6	Saturday	Claymont Christmas Parade	Philadelphia Pike	10:000 AM			
7	Sunday	First Degree	St. Pius X Council	7:00 PM			
9	Tuesday	Holy Rosary Bingo Support	Holy Rosary School Hall	6:00 PM			
10	Wednesday	Christmas Show-Radio City	New York	7:45 AM			
14	Sunday	Declamation Contest	St. Anthony of Padua Grade School	11:30 AM			
14	Sunday	Parish Breakfast	St. Helena's School Hall	9:00 - 12 Noon			
16	Tuesday	Council Christmas Party	Council Home	6:30 PM			
18	Thursday	Mardaga Assembly Meeting	Council Home	8:00 PM			
20	Saturday	Childrens' Christmas Party	Council Home	10:00 AM			
21	Sunday	Social Christmas Party	Brandywine Club	2:00 PM			
26	Friday	Council Poker Night	Council Home	5:30 PM			
JANUA	ARY 2014						
3	Saturday	Planned Parenthood Vigil	625 N. Shipley Street	7:30 AM			
4	Sunday	First Degree	St. Pius X Council	7:00 PM			
6	Tuesday	Council Officers' Meeting	Council Home	7:00 PM			
6	Tuesday	Council Business Meeting	Council Home	8:00 PM			
8	Thursday	DSC Informational Meeting	Christopher Council	6:30 PM			
11	Sunday	Parish Breakfast	St. Helena's School Hall	9:00 - 12 Noon			
11	Sunday	Basketball Free Throw (Tentative)	St. Helena's Gymnasium	Morning			
13	Tuesday	Holy Rosary Bingo Support	Holy Rosary School Hall	6:00 PM			
15	Thursday	Mardaga Assembly Meeting	Council Home	8:00 PM			
19	Monday	State Council Chaplains' Night	Executive Club, Newark, Delaware	6:30 AM			
20	Tuesday	Council Meeting (1st Degree)	Council Home	8:00 PM			
22	Thursday	Annual March for Life	Washington, D.C.	All Day			
23	Friday	Council Poker Night	Council Home	5:30 PM			
23-25	Fri - Sun	Winter Weekend Getaway	Princess Royale Ocean City, MD				
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REMAINDER OF YEAR - HEADS UP

2/1	Sun	Polar Bear Plunge	Atlantic Sands, Rehoboth Beach, DE	1:00 PM
5/15-17	Fri-Sun	Delaware State Convention	Princess Royale Ocean City, MD	

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !