



The Saint Michael

Saint Michael Knights of Columbus Council 4548

Grand Knight's Message

HOLY FAMILY

15 Gender Road
Newark, DE 19713

OFFICERS:
GRAND KNIGHT
Ron Cahill

CHAPLAIN
Fr Mark Kelleher

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT
Perry Best

CHANCELLOR
Frank Strawser

RECORDER
Rick Judd

TREASURER
Joe Salvato

LECTURER
Deacon Joe Certesio

ADVOCATE
Ted Godsell

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Joe McCann

WARDEN
George Loyer

INSIDE GUARD
Joe Nash

OUTSIDE GUARDS
Bob Stopyra

TRUSTEE 3 YEAR
Tony Malafronti

TRUSTEE 2 YEAR
Brian Kunkel

TRUSTEE 1 YEAR
Bill Black

Worthy Brothers:

As we prepare for this year's lenten season, it is difficult to believe that we have spent nearly a whole year coping with the ravages and effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is unlike anything that most of us have ever seen in our lifetime.. As members of the Knights of Columbus, it has of course impacted our ability to conduct monthly meetings in person as well as the many social gatherings that we typically schedule throughout the year. I believe it is a testament to the faith and commitment of our Knights that we have continued to hold well attended monthly meetings (virtually) as well as so many of the community service activities that we are known for. I urge all of our members to be as supportive as possible during this difficult period. Learn how to attend our meetings on Zoom (call a brother Knight for guidance if you are having a problem doing so) and continue to take part in our community wide efforts. The needs of those who come to our Outreach Pantry, or need



winter coats at the Ministry of Caring, or the young people served by Special Olympics have not stopped coming during this pandemic. In fact, it is well understood that those needs have never been greater. So Brother Knights-as our lenten pledge let us try to LOOK around and BE around for those going through serious problems during this pandemic-whether they be Brother Knights or fellow neighbors. It is the appropriate time to prove once again what it means to be called a "Knight"
Vivat Jesus!

Ron Cahill,
Grand Knight
St. Michael Council #4548

CONGRATULATIONS!

Family of the Month

November 2020	Nick LaRussa
December 2020	None
January 2021	Adam “Snapper” Jablonski

Thank you to the Family of the Month Recipients!



Br. Snapper Jablonski and his wife, Linda, were presented the January Family of the Month award by GK Ron Cahill and Br. Bob McAllister, Family of the Month Coordinator. Linda, Parish OutReach Coordinator, and Snapper were at the OurReach Pantry, as usual, working to feed those in need in the local community.

Congratulations Snapper and Linda!

RECRUIT!

Reach out!

Offer the opportunity to other men.

The goal for this year is for every Brother to recruit one new member!

Help increase our Council's strength!

St. Michael Council Calendar

2021	UPCOMING EVENTS	LOCATION
February		
February 17	ASH WEDNESDAY	
February 22	Council Officer's Meeting	Virtual - Zoom
March		
March 8	Council Business Meeting	Virtual - Zoom
March 17	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	
March 28	PALM SUNDAY	
April		
April 4	EASTER	
April 12	Council Business Meeting	Virtual - Zoom
May		
May 9	MOTHER'S DAY	
May 10	Council Business Meeting	Virtual - Zoom
May 31	MEMORIAL DAY	



Program Updates



As we are, hopefully, turning the corner in our struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic the impact is still felt on various Council programs and events. The **University of Delaware Football Season** has been moved from last Fall to this Spring with limited games to be played. This Spring season will be limited in attendance and, therefore, no help will be needed from the

Council with ushering. The UofD will be in touch regarding the Fall Season and expressed that our help would be appreciated when needed.

Also impacted is the **Annual Holy Family Lenten Fish Fry**. The decision was made by Pastor Fr. Mark Kelleher and the Council to not hold the Fish Fry this Lent.

Officer of the Quarter Update

Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the last time the council was able to hold an in-person presentation of the Officer of the quarter award to a Newark police officer was Monday, January 27th, 2020. Another presentation was scheduled for Monday, March 23rd, 2020, but had to be cancelled for obvious reasons.

However, Worthy Recorder, Rick Judd, came up with a great idea. He suggested that we should consider having pizza's delivered to the entire Newark Police Department since they are all involved with keeping our community safe. The idea was approved at a council meeting, held virtually, of course, and I got in touch with our contact at the department, Lt. Rubin, and he thought it was a great idea.

A date in December was agreed upon, and it was mutually decided that the pizzas be

delivered at two different times in order for the food to be enjoyed by all police personnel on all shifts. I ordered the pizza from Tony's and Dominic, the owner, upon finding out that the food was going to be delivered to the Newark Police Department, said he was going to throw in a couple of extra pizzas! I think he also did this because it was for the Knight's!

Lt. Rubin emailed me his and the department's thanks and appreciation. He also mentioned that they already have made a selection for Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2020 and hopefully, as things get better, we all can get together to return to presenting the award in person!!

Fraternally,
Bill Black PGK

REMEMBER



Pop Top Tabs Still keep collecting!



Our Council collects all aluminum pop top tabs, including those from pet food cans, to benefit The Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington.

Please drop off all tabs in the Outreach Food bin, or give directly to Br. Ray Bodnar when safely able.



Council Activities

Tootsie Roll Drive with Boscov's



The check for Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" has arrived and was \$392.97. Thank you shoppers! This will be coupled with the \$622 from the collection outside the Church and the \$2000 generously provided by the Saint Michael's Charity Club. This total amount was rounded up to \$3015 which will be donated to the Delaware Special Olympics. Thanks to everyone who helped with this worthy cause.

Fraternally,
Br. Rick Judd



Souper Bowl Sunday

There was a great response to the food drive on Super Bowl Sunday weekend (2/6 & 2/7) at all the Masses. Despite inclement weather on Sunday, over two shopping carts of food were collected, as well as \$600 which will be used to purchase script. This will benefit not only OutReach, but also Holy Family Parish. Many thanks to our Brothers who made this possible. They include Bill Black, Joe Nash, Bob Hicks, Joe Salvato, Joel Watson, Robert Fragale, & Ron Cahill. Our apologies if we missed anyone. Thanks Brothers for a job well done!

Thanks to all who helped with the Souper Bowl Food Drive!

2020 Christmas Card Sales

With the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the annual selling of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" cards and car magnets was very much in doubt. I emailed Father Kelleher to see how he felt about selling the cards in the midst of all the precautions required to maintain safety. He gave the council permission to go ahead with the sales, but instead of selling in the Gathering Space, we were to use the Church Hall, where it would be easier to maintain the recommended social distancing of 6 feet.

With the limited amount of parishioners attending Mass in person, I purchased fewer boxes of cards to sell than previous years. With the plan to sell cards before and after Masses for four weeks (we actually did 5 weeks), I was totally surprised that after 2

weeks of sales, I needed to purchase more cards. Once again, our generous parishioners came through and though sales could not measure up to other years, sales were rather robust. We even sold a yard sign which hasn't been done in 2-3 years!!

After buying more boxes, the sales slowed a little, but we still netted a profit of \$200 for the 5 weeks. I want to thank the following brothers (hope I don't miss anyone) for their assistance: GK Ron Cahill, Brian Phelan, Joe Nash, Jim Gardener, Joe Salvato, and Joel Watson.

Fraternally,
Bill Black PGK

New Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian Family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ more closely fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Join Our Founder's Cause

PROMOTE BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY'S cause for canonization by joining the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild. Established in 1997 after the cause was formally opened, the Guild spreads devotion to the founder of the Knights of Columbus, receives and publishes reports of favors received through his intercession, and preserves and distributes relics of this blessed servant of God.

Membership in the Guild is free and open to anyone who is devoted to Father McGivney. Members receive a quarterly newsletter about his life and spirituality and can request a prayer card with a



third-class relic. They are also remembered in a weekly Mass offered for their intentions.

Most importantly, the Guild plays an active role in the cause by praying for Father McGivney's intercession in times of need, especially in cases of serious illness. Since one more confirmed miracle is needed for Father McGivney to be canonized a saint, the Guild encourages people to recite regularly the prayer for canonization and to report any favors received.

To learn more about the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild and how you can spread devotion to this model parish priest, visit www.fathermcgivney.org.

Prayer for our Nation

Today, our great nation is greatly divided and reeling from all the terrible injustices we have witnessed these past days, the violence and unrest, the fear, and the pain. As our Holy Father, Pope Francis, recently remarked to us, “his brothers and sisters in the United States ... we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life” (General Audience Address, June 3, 2020).

In these troubling times it is more important than ever that we turn to our Mother, Mary Immaculate, patroness of the United States, seeking her powerful intercession for reconciliation and peace, for the acknowledgment of the sacredness and equality of all human persons, and for the repose of the souls of all who have lost their lives to violence.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception invites you to join us in raising our voices to God, so that we might pierce the heavens with our cries for peace.

Prayer for Our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation’s leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the “culture of death.” Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayer for the President

Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask You to restore dignity, honor, and righteousness to the office of the United States President. I thank You, Father, that President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamal Harris's hearts are in Your hands, and as the rivers of water, You turn them wherever You will and I know Your will is righteousness ([Proverbs 21:1](#)). Father, I pray that they will not rely on their own understandings, but in all their ways acknowledge You, and You will direct their paths ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

Father, I ask, in Jesus's Name, that you bring to President Joseph Biden men and women after Your own heart who will speak to him of things that hold great weight with You. Send Your prophets to speak a word in season to President Joseph Biden and cause him to think deeply on these things and ponder them in his heart.

Father, pour out Your wisdom in the night hours upon President Joseph Biden and cause him to hear Your voice saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Grant him wisdom concerning our nation's social and economic issues and issues involving foreign affairs. Put a new mantle of wisdom, power and strength upon President Biden, in Jesus' Name.

Father, in Jesus' Name I ask You to surround President Joseph Biden and his family with Your hedge of protection. Put Your angels in charge over them and protect them from all harm and evil intentions. Bless their coming in and their going out. Father, let President's Joseph Biden's enemies be scattered, and let those who deal falsely towards him be exposed. Grant him success in all his endeavors and renew his strength and spirit, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Poverty and Abortion: A Vicious Cycle

“My boyfriend Jimmy and I had been going from shelter to shelter just to stay warm as winter’s chill coursed through us. I was with Jimmy and pregnant.”
– Anna*

“On several occasions we had to deal with homelessness. I can remember sleeping on a park bench and sleeping at bus stops... In 2009 I discovered I was pregnant, with my daughter Mia. And prior to being pregnant with her I had been pregnant before. I had an abortion... So this time around I wanted to do things the right way. I wanted to choose life.”
– Jacqueline*

Anna and Jacqueline* describe a plight that is too common. If anything, surveys indicate that low-income women are more *against* abortion than other women. Yet economic realities pressure many to act against their convictions. This has been a disturbing reality for a long time, and is getting worse.

In a 2005 study, 73% of women undergoing an abortion said not being able to afford a baby now was a reason for the abortion. That number rose to 81% for women below the federal poverty line.¹ And while the abortion rate for American women declined by 8% between 2000 and 2008, among poor American women it increased by 18%.²

Economic pressure and government abortion policy can combine to make things worse. One study found that poor women on Medicaid had twice the abortion rate of other women in their state. If the state’s Medicaid program paid for elective abortions, their abortion rate was more than *four times* that of other women.³ By offering “free” abortions, the government effectively places its thumb on the scale to favor death for the unborn child. By contrast, if these programs continue funding care for mothers and babies but stop funding abortion, abortions among women in the program decrease by as much as 35%.⁴

For many years policymakers have debated whether we should reduce abortions by fighting poverty or by passing pro-life laws. The question is misplaced. It is not a matter of either/or, but of both/and. We need to address both poverty *and* bad abortion policies.

So poverty can lead to an increase in abortions. How does abortion affect poverty?

Here we have to look at a trend called “the feminization of poverty.” Women are more likely than men to be poor, and to be in “deep poverty” (with an income less than half the federal poverty line). U.S. Census Bureau figures show that 5 million more women than men were poor in 2012. Almost 31% of households headed by a single woman are below the poverty line, compared to 6% of households headed by a married couple.⁵ Women head over 80% of single-parent households, and almost half of children living with only their mother are poor.⁶ So poverty in America is often a story of poor women and children, with no man in the house.

Some social observers once thought legalized abortion would solve this problem. If single poor women had access to abortion, they could avoid the hardships of trying to raise a child alone without resources. But after more than forty years of legalized abortion, out-of-wedlock births have increased, and the plight of poor women has worsened.

Beginning in the 1990s, groundbreaking research has found that the “technology shock” of widely available contraception and abortion has *increased* out-of-wedlock births. Previously, it was widely accepted that an unexpected pregnancy out-of-wedlock should lead a man to offer marriage. Once contraception and abortion became widespread, the same pregnancy came to be seen as the woman’s responsibility – and as her problem. The man’s obligation can end with an offer to pay for abortion; if the woman refuses, she often soon finds herself to be a single mother. Today over 40% of births are out-of-wedlock.⁷

What if the woman does have the abortion? Besides suffering from psychological and spiritual burdens as an individual, she may find that the abortion has poisoned her relationships. The rate of marital breakups and relationship dissolution after an abortion is said to be between 40 and 75 percent, often related to a breakdown of intimacy and trust.⁸ And that often leaves women alone to care for themselves and any other children. In fact, sixty percent of abortions are performed on women who already had one or more children.

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Poverty and Abortion: A Vicious Cycle....

Marriage has been called “America’s greatest weapon against child poverty.”⁹ By the same token, anything that disrupts lasting relationships undermines the ability of women and men to join together to make a promising future for themselves and their children. In short, poverty can lead to abortion, and abortion can lead to more poverty.

Pope Francis has seen a deeper link between the poor and the unborn. They are both among the first victims of a “throw-away society,” an attitude that sees people as disposable when they do not serve the selfish interests of those with more power.

In *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*,¹⁰ Pope Francis rededicated the Church to solidarity with the poor and marginalized, including women who are “doubly poor” because they endure “situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence.” He added: “Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us.” To those who would abandon the unborn in order to be more “progressive,” he insisted: “It is not ‘progressive’ to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.” He went on to say that not enough has been done “to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty” (nos. 212-14).

In defending unborn children, whom Mother Theresa called “the poorest of the poor,” we resist a “survival of the fittest” attitude that ignores the needy – including poor women, many of whom feel pressure to undergo abortions. And in standing for the needs of the poor, we oppose a mentality that treats the very lives of some human beings – any human being, from conception to natural death – as unimportant or burdensome.

Anna and Jacqueline were fortunate. They found a network of church support that provides material,

emotional and spiritual support for women with unintended pregnancies. Thousands of pregnancy centers throughout the country provide such help every day, assuring women in crisis that they and their unborn children really matter.**

We should support these centers and consider volunteering for them or opening our homes to a pregnant woman in need. And we can all help encourage our government and other institutions to support life. They must always aid and support mothers and children, and never offer to pay for the destruction of life as a “solution” to the challenges women face. The call to uphold women’s dignity and well-being, and that of their unborn children, is one and the same.

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of those mentioned.

** To find out what resources may be available locally, contact your diocesan pro-life or respect life office.

1 L. Finer et al. in *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Sept. 2005, pp. 110-118 at 115.

2 R. Jones and M. Kavanaugh, in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, June 2011, pp. 1358-1366 at 1362.

3 R. Jones et al. in *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Sept./Oct. 2002, pp. 226-35 at 231.

4 S. Henshaw and R. Jones, Guttmacher Institute, Sept. 20, 2007, at <http://paa2008.princeton.edu/papers/80673>.

5 “Poverty in the United States: A Snapshot,” National Center for Law and Economic Justice, at <http://www.nclj.org/povertyin-the-us.php> (accessed July 2014).

6 “Single Mother Statistics,” June 23, 2014, at <http://singlemotherguide.com/single-mother-statistics/>.

7 See H. Alvare in *Villanova Law Review* (2013), pp. 379-436 at 408-11, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2272821.

8 The deVeber Institute, *Women’s Health after Abortion: The Medical and Psychological Evidence*, Chapter 15, at <http://www.deveber.org/text/whealth.html#fifteen> (accessed July 2014).

9 R. Rector, Heritage Foundation Backgrounder #2465, Sept. 16, 2010, at http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/09/marriage-americas-greatest-weapon-against-child-poverty#_ftn1

10 See Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2013).

Excerpts from *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*.
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www.respectlife.org