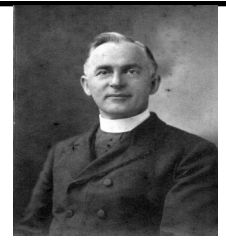




# Knights Life

The Official Publication of Father Rosensteel Council #2169



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## Chaplain's Reflection Miracle of Christmas

Christmas is God's greatest miracle. What is a miracle? A miracle is any special showing of God's goodness. And His Son, the infant Jesus, started working miracles right from the moment he was born. There is a legend about the first miracle of the infant Jesus. It is a legend because it is not in the Gospel, but knowing how much Jesus loves us we can be pretty sure that it is true.

Two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, there was a young orphan boy named Ezekiel who was born unable to speak. Through his mouth came only ugly grunting sounds - no words. He was tongueless. Ezekiel was a wonderful little boy who worked very hard to please everyone, but people at the inn where he helped out made fun of him because he could not speak.

Ezekiel trusted in God and prayed to him every night for the gift of speech. He wanted to be able to talk, sing and play with all the other children. Every morning he woke up believing that God would one day work a miracle, but he was always disappointed.

As he wandered the hills and fields of Bethlehem, Ezekiel came upon other tongueless ones like himself. The streams would chatter, the trees would whoosh, the rains would pelt and the grasses would rustle. And graciously, they blended his unmusical noises right into their symphony. Ezekiel came to understand how God had answered his prayers in a very special way, for he could talk with all the tongueless ones. His life became filled with joy.

However, one terrible morning, the innkeeper was really mean to him and sent him out to eat with the pigs in the stable behind the inn. Later that evening, large crowds suddenly descended upon Bethlehem and the inn became very full. So Ezekiel had to work long and late hours. But the patrons were cruel and impatient with him because he could not speak.

Feeling alone, Ezekiel ran into the darkness of Bethlehem to talk to his only real friends, the tongueless ones. But on this night they did not speak back to him. The streams, the winds, the grasses, the trees and the leaves were absolutely silent. Feeling abandoned, Ezekiel cried himself to sleep in the fields.

While Ezekiel slept, a great white star rose over the city of Bethlehem. When Ezekiel returned to the inn, he saw a bright glowing radiance coming from the stable where a man, a

(Continued on page 3)

## Grand Knight's Station

And just like that, we're into December and counting down to Christmas, and then (gasp!) New Year's Day! How in the world did time fly by? Since the last *Knights Life*, we've hosted a Catholic Charities food prep event, the Maryknights have valiantly hosted another successful Charity Gala, Tim Sullivan and Tom Murphy spearheaded a team of squires and friends in assembling food baskets for the needy and our Chaplain Fr. Calis held a beautiful Memorial Mass for our deceased.



We've experienced the pain of losing our dear friend and iconic Brother Knight Don Phillips and we've seen two Council families come together to celebrate the marriage of Andrew Moore and Christine Weithman. The "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest is underway and in search of artistic students to represent our Council. There was the well-attended smoker and a special Admissions Degree ceremony. Our Fr. Rosensteel family continues to exemplify Charity, Unity and Fraternity, precisely because we have much to be thankful for.

As we welcome the Season of Advent, we can demonstrate for our families what it means to "Keep Christ in Christmas." It may sound simplistic, but the best way to keep Christ in our Christmas celebrations is to have Him present in our daily lives. Doing so starts with sincere acts of charity, continues through daily acts of kindness toward others and lives on within our hearts as we interact with one another as Jesus would. As Saint John of the Cross taught, "The more God wishes to bestow upon us, the more does he make us desire."

Each blessing begets a desire to be more Christlike and what greater gift can we share? A quick internet search will reveal multiple suggestions for simple acts we can do daily; one of my favorite sites is [www.thoughtco.com/ways-to-serve-others-this-christmas-](http://www.thoughtco.com/ways-to-serve-others-this-christmas-)

As the children count the days, we have several Council events to look forward to. Instead of first Sunday breakfast at the Council, why not venture over to St. Bernadette's on Saturday, December 10, for its First Sunday of Advent Breakfast? The Children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday the 17th and Needy Food Baskets will be done on Saturday the 23rd. Welcome new Knights at our Admissions (1st) Degree on Tuesday the 19th. And throughout this month of Advent and Christmas, welcome Christ into your hearts and homes, He is yours to marvel at.

Keep Christ in your hearts, and an Attitude of Gratitude for the many blessings he bestows upon us.

*Vivat Jesus,*

*Bruce Cotting*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### **Knight Life**

Published Monthly

Fr. Rosensteel Council #2169

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Friday & Sat: 2 PM—Midnight

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## **District and State News**

My sincerest thanks to all of those who participated in the Columbus Day Ball, Columbus Day Parade, the Car Raffle and the Celebration at Union Station. We certainly honored our namesake in fine fashion. The parade saw the largest group of participants of Knights in a long time. Knights and their families came from all over the state to make a statement to the people of Baltimore that we support Christopher Columbus and what he stands for.

*Stephen M. Cohen*

*State Deputy, Maryland Knights of Columbus*

**Ultrasound Project** - To date, the Maryland State Council has donated 20 ultrasound machines to pregnancy care centers throughout the state. Several additional applications are under development and more machines are needed. For each machine, the State Council contributes about \$25,000, which is matched by funds from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Headquarters.

**2018 Supreme Convention** - The 2018 Supreme Convention will be held in Baltimore from August 6 – 9. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the various duties that will be undertaken to make the convention a success. Help will be needed with pre-convention activities, hosting duties and support opportunities throughout the convention. Stay tuned for more information.

**March for Life - Friday, January 19, 2018** - March with the Maryland Knights of Columbus. Meet at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Drive NW on the Mall between 10:45 and 11:15 a.m. The nearest Metro stops are Federal Triangle and Smithsonian. Look for Brother Knights and the Maryland Knights of Columbus banner. Stand up for the unborn.



**Remember in your prayers:**

**Deceased:**

Kathleen Wilson, sister of Burr Brady  
 Mardie Winkle, cousin of Bill Finnin  
 Donald J. Phillips

**Sick:**

Red Smith  
 Joe Damiano  
 Rick Arnone  
 Helen Borkoski, mother of Mark Borkoski  
 Joe Caron  
 Joe Brannan  
 Scott Pratt, nephew of Tom Kelly  
 Pete Lone  
 Will Young, grandson of Gus Gusman  
 Ronelle Smith  
 Selena Gomez, six years old  
 Barry Peters

*In case of illness or death of a member, please  
 contact Financial Secretary Michael Koon.*

**Chaplain's Report**

*(Continued from page 1)*

woman and a child - Joseph, Mary and the infant Jesus - were waiting for him. Jesus smiled at Ezekiel as he approached. As Ezekiel opened his mouth to say "hello," he was suddenly able to speak as sweetly as the winds and as perfectly as the raindrops.

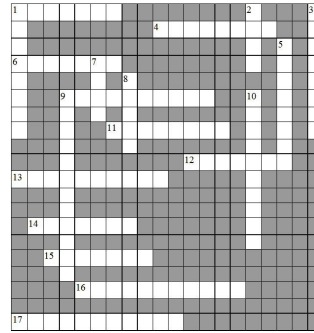
The infant Jesus had taken the voices of his tongueless friends and given them to Ezekiel. That was why the tongueless ones were so silent earlier that night. Ezekiel's voice had become the song of all the tongueless ones to the child in the manger. And that was the first miracle performed by the infant Jesus on the night he was born.

Ezekiel received a gift that he would keep for the rest of his life. It was a gift that he had prayed for every night for years and years. Even today, 2,000 years later, if you listen carefully, you can hear the faint voice of Ezekiel in the wind, rain, snow, trees and grasses.

The real meaning of Christmas is the miracle of God sending us the infant Jesus. And the gifts we receive from Jesus last forever.

*Deacon Alan Jeeves*

**Knights of Columbus Crossword Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

1. Term for each chapter
4. How officers are chosen
6. Pope
9. Charity, Unity, \_\_\_\_\_, Patriotism
11. Headquarters of the Order
12. Levels of Knighthood
13. Leader of the Diocese.
14. Fourth Degree Knights wear this
15. The life blood of all organizations
16. He presides over the meetings
17. Annual charity drive.

**DOWN**

1. He leads the members in prayer
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Order
3. Founder of the Order
5. He sailed the ocean blue in 1492.
7. Banner
8. Every officer has one.
9. Highest level of Knighthood
10. Don't leave home without it.

Answers available December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Council  
 On Facebook and January Knight Life

## Council Calendar

### DECEMBER

- 5 Business Meeting
- 17 Children's Christmas Party
- 19 Social Meeting and First Degree
- 23 Needy Food Baskets

### JANUARY

- 7 First Sunday Breakfast
- 12 Knighthood Degree in Columbian Room
- 14 Culture of Life Kickoff Rally
- 19 March for Life, Washington, DC

### Free Throw Contest

The annual Council Free Throw Contest will be held January 20 at St. John the Baptist parish off New Hampshire Avenue. Please contact Kevin Carey at [kdcarey@loyola.edu](mailto:kdcarey@loyola.edu) for more information.

### Fraternal Insurance Your Shield of Strength

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If you need life insurance – and chances are you do – why would you look anywhere else? Let us be your shield. Did you know that the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest life insurers in North America? The Knights of Columbus has surpassed \$100 billion of insurance in force and is a member of the Fortune 1000.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus consistently earns the highest possible ratings for its ethical business practices and sound investment strategies?



**Knights of Columbus**  
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## The Best of Rosensteel

**Knight of the Month** - The Knight of The Month is someone that maintains a consistent presence at the Council. Be it a sports night, a Friday family night or another volunteer function, this guy is there. Yet what most don't know about this Knight is the role he plays in keeping our Council in touch with membership and with the rest of the world. This person finds the time between work and youth coaching to assist with ensuring our internet is up to date and properly functioning. He frequently will squeeze in requests for the installation of television monitors during his regular workday and is consistently ready, willing and able to pitch in behind the bar or in the kitchen. This Knight never complains, is always upbeat and chipper, and delivers as promised. Please congratulate Brian McCaw as our December Knight of the Month. Thank you for all you do, Brian!

**Family of the Month** - We often focus on the culmination of the birth of our Savior, the night in the manger, the three Wise Men gathering in homage, the stars shining brightly in the clear cold sky as shepherds keep watch. We should also focus on the three main figures in the tale: a poor carpenter, strong of hand and heart, unwavering in his faith. A humble woman whose inner beauty radiated beyond her outer appearance, equally strong in her faith. And then there's the child in the manger. This child is the King of Men, who arrived as a Savior for us all. Yes, our Family of the Month is the Family who gave us our Lord and Christ. May Joseph, Mary and Jesus remain front and center in your hearts, in your words and in your deeds, throughout Christmas and beyond. Peace.

## Return Our Bar Stool

An upholstered wooden bar stool that dates to the late 1970s was taken from the Council in early November. It is a piece of our history and belongs at the Council. Please return the stool to either the outside entrance to the building manager's office or the entrance to the Knights' Room. Leave the stool when members aren't around - before 1 p.m. any day of the week. Remain anonymous - no questions asked.

**Christmas is the season of giving, and in that spirit,  
here are some suggestions on how to serve others this Christmas.**

- 1. The gift of food.** Call your local soup kitchen or homeless shelter and schedule a time for your family to go serve meals. If your schedule doesn't allow it, another option would be to inquire if they are low on any specific supply needs. This time of year many organizations host food drives, so their pantry may be full, but there may be other items that need to be restocked such as bandages, blankets or personal hygiene items.
- 2. The gift of your time.** Although the holiday season can mean nursing homes are overwhelmed with groups that want to visit and sing Christmas carols, there are other ways that you can help. Check to see if you can visit during the residents' recreational time and play games with them, read to them or spend some time with residents who don't have regular visitors. Christmas goodies can help sweeten the time spent together as well as create conversations.
- 2. The gift of anonymous gifting.** Every church in our parishes has a giving tree. Consider taking more than one angel request and making Christmas all the more special for those in need.
- 3. The gift of belonging.** Choose a child, grandparent, single mom or family who is struggling this year and purchase gifts or groceries or deliver a meal. If you don't know someone personally, you can ask local agencies and organizations that work with needy families.
- 4. The gift of comfort.** Check with your priest or Inquire at the utility company to see if you can pay the electric, gas or water bill for someone who is struggling. (Note: due to privacy factors, you may not be able to pay a specific bill, but there is often a fund to which you can donate.) You can also check with the Department of Family and Children's Services.
- 5. The gift of appreciation.** Bake a meal or treats for someone who helps you. Bake a little box of goodies for elderly neighbors. Or leave a little snack bag in the mailbox with a note for your mail carrier. Another idea is to leave a basket of snacks, soft drinks, and bottled water on the porch with a note inviting delivery people to help themselves. That's sure to be a greatly appreciated gesture during the busy holiday season.
- 6. The gift of caring.** Call your local hospital and see if you could deliver a meal or snacks and drinks if someone isn't already doing that. Some hospitals have hospitality rooms for families of seriously ill patients. Perhaps you could bring snacks to be left in those rooms
- 7. The gift of dignity.** Consider making bags to give out to homeless people. Fill a gallon-size storage bag with items such as: gloves, a beanie, small juice boxes or water bottles, non-perishable ready-to-eat food items, lip balm, facial tissues, restaurant gifts cards, or prepaid phone cards. You might also consider giving blankets or a sleeping bag.  
  
Perhaps an even better way to help the homeless community is to contact an organization like Shepherd's Table that works directly with the homeless and find out what it needs. Often, these organizations can stretch monetary donations farther than we could by purchasing in bulk or working with complementary organizations. Leave a generous tip for your server at restaurants.
- 8. The gift of youthful energy.** This one is geared toward the kids with boundless energy. Do housework or yard work for someone. Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean house or do laundry for someone who could use the extra help. You might consider a sick or elderly neighbor or a new or single parent. Obviously, you'll have to make arrangements to do housework, but yard work can be done as a complete surprise.
- 9. The gift of paying it forward.** Pay for someone's meal at a restaurant. Paying for someone's meal in a restaurant or the car behind you in the drive-thru is a fun random act of kindness any of time of year, but it's often especially appreciated at Christmas when money is tight for many families.
- 10. The gift of warmth and appreciation.** Take hand warmers and/or a hot beverage to people working in the cold. Police officers directing traffic, mail carriers, bell ringers or anyone else working out in the cold this Christmas season will appreciate a cup of hot cocoa, coffee, tea or cider.

Whether you're investing your time, financial resources or both to serve others this holiday season, you'll likely find that it's you and your family who are blessed by serving others. And that my friends, is the gift of Keeping Christ in Christmas!

*Bruce Cotting, Grand Knight, Father Rosensteel Council #2169*

**"I can do all things through him who strengthens me" Phillipians 4:13**

## ROSENSTEEL RETIREES CLUB

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**Treasurer** ...Ray Koski.....301-288-7808  
**Secretary** ....Marge Fait .....301-598-7064

Christmas is the day that Christians acknowledge as the day of the birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago - the Son of God in the town of Bethlehem. Religious recognition is made of this everywhere in the world. What is the city of Bethlehem like today with over 20,000 citizens of mixed Muslim and Christian faiths living together?

Bethlehem today is a town of both Christian and Muslim residents 10 miles south of Jerusalem. It is in the West Bank area of Israel and under the full control of the Palestinian Authority. There is an Israeli Army checkpoint prior to entering the area, but tourists with passports are granted admission unconditionally. The center of attraction is Manger Square with The Church of the Nativity (built first in 330AD) and the adjoining Franciscan Monastery with its Church of St. Catherine (1881). Within the latter church is the Grotto of the Nativity, accessible only from within the church. It is the undisputed location of the birth of Jesus. This is the location of a Midnight Mass that draws thousands of pilgrims from around the world every year. The city has over 30 hotels and a wide variety of shops and restaurants open to everyone.

On December 25, there is a religious procession with people carrying candles from the Shepherd's Fields located about a mile East of the town. This is the area where it is felt that shepherds first saw the star in the sky. The procession ends back at Manger Square and a Mass is celebrated at The Church of the Nativity. Holiday parties and concerts take place with people mingling with strangers and enjoying the festivities.

Interesting to both Christian and Jewish people is Rachel's Tomb, located in a cemetery just outside Bethlehem. Rachel was the wife of Jacob and the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, each of whom are mentioned in the Bible. You may also view King David's Wells which were excavated in 1895. These are three great cisterns which provided water to this ancient city thousands of years ago. And King Solomon's Pools - three water reservoirs dating to 100 BC with ancient aqueducts that provided water to Jerusalem and other area towns. Pilgrims may also visit the Milk Grotto which is an area used by people of that time.

Our Christmas luncheon is on the Tuesday, December 19. It is the largest of the year and will be exceptionally special. Have you gotten your tickets from Nancy yet? Only tickets obtained prior to the date are valid. Fr. Perkins will entertain us with his humorous stories that we all enjoy. There will be raffles, prizes, many gifts and an exceptional meal. Don't forget to bring those Christmas goodies to share with everyone. **DON'T MISS IT!**

*Tom Leonard*

## Maryknights Officers 2016—2017

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What an amazing Charity Ball! Everyone had a great time and best of all it was to benefit the Gabriel Project. We lost a great friend that night. Don Philips was a great supporter of the Maryknights and Rosensteel Council. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

There are so many people to thank for this wonderful Charity Ball. A huge thank you to our Chairlady Sue Wiant. She did a great job and we are very thankful for all of her efforts. Many others that gave their untiring efforts to make the Ball a success (please forgive me if I have left anyone out as there were so many people involved in this program). So in no particular order **thank you** goes to:

Program Book, Margie Cuff; Raffle Tickets, Theresa Fitzgerald; Table Settings, Jeanne Berman; Reservations, Dee Calcutt and Maeve O'Neill; 50/50, Bonnie Donnelly and Megan Morgan; Bartenders, Diane Lynch and Barbara Dassing; Food, Mike Miller and "the entire kitchen crew;" Servers, Kevin Carey and the Squires and Roses; Silent Auction, Sarah Warner, Donna Stoker, Kathy Arvedlund, Amy Arvedlund, Polly Seleski, Peggy Seleski, Gus and Ruth Gusman and friend Danielle, Jenny Wilson, Renee Walton, Pat Wigmore, Carol Walper, Jeanne Berman, Morgan Minnick and Theresa Fitzgerald. I would also like to thank Grand Knight Bruce Cotting and his officers for their support.

**The final amount that we raised will be revealed at our December 11 meeting, so come to the meeting to find out how well we did!**

Our next project is a program called the Christmas Shoebox Program. This program benefits the Apostleship of the Sea ministry that assists seafarers to meet their basic needs and provide a parish that accommodates a seafarer's unique lifestyle and needs (see [www.apostleshipofthesea.com](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.com) for more details). The Christmas Shoebox Program provides gifts to seafarers who call into the Port of Baltimore during the Christmas holiday. We are asking all Maryknights (and Knights if they would like to participate) to bring travel-sized toiletry items such as combs and nail clippers, hats scarves, gloves, socks, writing supplies. Calendars, pocket-sized address books/planners or English dictionaries, playing cards, magazines and paperback books to our December meeting. These will go into the shoeboxes and be delivered to the Apostleship of the Sea ministries for distribution over Christmas.

I wish all of you and your families a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

*Beth Torp*

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COMING EVENTS...

JANUARY

- 7 First Sunday Breakfast
- 14 Culture of Life Kickoff Rally
- 19 March for Life in Washington, DC
- 20 Youth Free Throw Contest

## DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1. Team 5 Girolami - Brisket dinner Pistol Pete Hardman	2. Dollymore, Bromley and Mullaney
3. Ponce	4. D'Antuono McNamara	5. <b>Business Meeting</b>	6. <b>Bingo</b> Kreitzberg	7. Cassagnol	8. Team 6 Langley - Beef and chicken taco bar Conway, Carey, DeVol, Wigmore	9. Cassagnol
10. McKinney	11. D'Antuono Conway, Carey, DeVol	12.	13. <b>Bingo</b> Cavaliere McNamara	14. Slattery	15. Team 7 Moore - Baby back ribs Lynch and Lyon	16. Dassing
17. <b>Children's Christmas Party</b>	18. <b>Horner Memorial Rosary</b> D'Antuono McNamara	19. <b>First Degree (in place of Social Meeting) Retirees Club Luncheon</b>	20. Langley and Moore	21.	22. Team 1 Calcutt/ Sullivan - Spiced shrimp Eddie McCaw Maddox	23. <b>Needy Food Baskets</b>
24.	25. <b>Christmas Day - Council Closed</b>	26. Culkin, DeVol	27.	28.	29. Team 2 McLeod Ladies Fifth Friday	30.
31. <b>New Year's Eve</b> McLeod						