



Knights *focus*

FR. EDWARD V. McCULLOUGH COUNCIL #7736
St. Jude Catholic Church, Mansfield, TX

A Global Celebration of Christmas

by Grand Knight Dave Tomlin

December 2012

Merry Christmas to all of you - my Knights of Columbus family!!

As we move into the Advent Season, we grow closer to the celebration of the birth of our Savior. Whether is wreathes on the front doors, Christmas trees in our homes, or advent wreathes in our churches, our Catholic traditions are on full display for all who enter our lives to see. It certainly is an amazing time of year.

I thought it would be fun to do a little research this month on other traditions of the Christmas season. So let's take a little trip, shall we?

The United States and Canada

Christmas trees are decorated and stockings are hung on the fireplace for Santa Claus to fill with gifts. Christmas is celebrated on December 25th, with certain French Canadian communities preferring December 24th. Many families celebrate on Christmas Eve with presents, family feasts, and midnight Mass. Cards and gifts are exchanged with friends and relatives. Additionally, in both the US and Canada, the people are known for massive outreaches to the poor and homeless during this Christmas celebration period.

China

The Christians in China light their homes with beautiful paper lanterns during Advent. Santa is called Dun Che Lao Ren. The children are encouraged to hang stockings like their counterparts in the US. Many of the traditions for celebration among the Christian communities in China were imported by the missionaries that delivered the message of Advent.

England

England exported several customs to

the United States that we now take for granted in our Christmas Celebrations. Prince Albert imported from Germany the tradition of bringing in a fir tree and decorating it with ornaments and fruits during Queen Victoria's reign. It quickly spread throughout England, as if the "royals" are doing it, it must be good.

Italy

Italy claims the first nativity scene was actually demonstrated in Italy by Saint Francis as an object lesson for children and today, in nearly every town and village they have regular award as a result of contests the "best nativity scene." Because of this type of focus, it is said that there are more animals in public squares in Italy during Advent, then perhaps in the rest of the world combined.

Sweden

The Swedes have created a number of unique perspectives around the Christmas celebration, not the least of which is referring to their version of Santa, Tomte, as a type of unattractive, and some children would say scary gnome, who only appears from out of a barn, or from under a building to deliver gifts. No reindeer here. Instead, the rather diminutive sleigh is drawn by a magic goat, and the gifts, only for the very good children are left hidden throughout the house. The packages are wrapped in several layers of paper to make the opening of the gift more of an event.

Whatever your Christmas tradition, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season filled with love, charity, and the Spirit of Christ.

Vivat Jesus!
Dave Tomlin
Grand Knight

Upcoming Events

- Dec 1 – Abortion Clinic
- Dec 1- Mansfield Christmas Parade
- Dec 2 – PancakeB'fast
- Dec 2 – Corp Communion
- Dec 8 – Feed the Homeless
- Dec 8 – Bingo
- Dec 8/9 – Magnet Sales
- Dec 11 – Monthly Mtg
- Dec 15 – Coats for Kids
- Dec 15/16 – Coats for Kids
- Dec 17 – 4th Degree Mtg
- Dec 18 – Family Christmas Party
- Dec 20 – First Degree
- Dec 22/23 – Magnet Sales
- Dec 25 – Christmas Day
- Jan 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Feed the Homeless

We will be going on our annual trip to feed the homeless on Saturday, December 8. We will meet at the Parish Center around 9:30 A.M. to load up and car pool up to downtown Fort Worth. We serve at the Feed By Grace ministry, who do wonderful work with the marginalized. Be prepared to simply hang out and chat with the homeless – it's a real eye opener to live what Jesus told us to do.

Bingo!

Monthly Bingo is starting up in December! Come out and help or just bring the whole family and play! Food prep starts around 4:00 P.M. – gaming at 6:30 P.M.



Prolife Rosary & Prayer

We will be leading a Prolife Rosary before Mass on Wednesday, January 2 at 6:30 P.M. We then will be going to pray at the Abortion Clinic at 8:15 A.M. on January 5. Please come out and help us pray. Help make a statement that abortion is murder.

First Degree

We will be having a First Degree ceremony at St. Jude on the evening of December 20. If you have any adult sons who have been away at college that you want to get in the Knights, this is a perfect time for them (or any other Catholic man) to join.

Magnet Sales

We will be selling our Keep Christ in Christmas throughout Advent. Please come out and help sell after whichever mass you attend.



Coats for Kids Giveaway

The Parishioners of St. Jude were very generous in our Coats for Kids collection. We have many coats to give away and will do so on Saturday, December 15, starting at 8:00 A.M. Come on out and help if you can.



Family Christmas Party

Family Christmas Party will be held the evening of December 18 in the Parish Center. Social Hour starts at 6:00 P.M. and dinner is at 7:00 P.M. We will be having a "Chinese" gift exchange this year, so bring a gift valued at \$25 or less. Our regular Santa is getting a gastric sleeve this year, so we are looking for replacement. (Please keep Jack Schooley in your prayers). If you have a lead on a cheap (read: free) Santa, please let GK Dave Tomlin know.



4th Degree Honor Guard at Corporate Communion, 12/2/2012

Ask a good Catholic man to join the Knights today! It'll make him a better Catholic – just like it did to you!!!

First Degrees

(all at 7:00 P.M. unless noted)

12/11 – Council 10930 in Fort Worth

12/17 – Council 9748 in Grapevine

12/20 – Council 6269 in Arlington

12/20 – Council 7736 in Mansfield

1/15 – Council 7736 in Mansfield

Contact George Kimmel at 817-584-1798

or e-mail at kimmel_george@yahoo.com if you have a lead on a new member

Monthly Awards

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH – Bill Tillotson – Anyone ever heard of this guy? Of course you have! After being one of the most successful Grand Knights in recent history, Bill has not decided to rest on his laurels. He continues to support our council in more ways than most people realize. Bill has taken on the communications chair and web master for our council. This is on top of all of the support that he gives us at all of our events. Thank you Bill for your tireless support!!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH – Eddie and Ramona Jackson – "When I was hungry, you gave me to eat..." Eddie and Ramona keep living the gospel through their work with the St Vincent de Paul Society. This year they made over 73 baskets that were given out to needy families in our area. Thank you Ramona and Eddie, you are truly demonstrating the spirit of charity and God's love!!



Find out everything going on with Council 7736 at

Council 7736 Upcoming Events

- December 1 @ 8:15 A.M. – Pray at abortion clinic
- December 1 @ 2:00 P.M. – Mansfield Christmas Parade
- December 2 @ 7:00 A.M. – Pancake Breakfast
- December 8 @ 9:30 A.M. – Feed the Homeless
- December 8 @ 6:30 P.M. – Bingo!
- December 8/9 – Magnet sales after all masses
- December 11 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Business Meeting; Rosary at 6:30 P.M.; Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
- December 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 13-16 – Kairos Weekend at prison in Venus
- December 15 @ 8:00 A.M. – Coats for Kids giveaway
- December 15/16 – Magnet sales after all masses
- December 17 @ 7:00 P.M. – Mary, Queen of Peace Assembly Meeting at Council 6269 Hall
- December 18 @ 7:00 P.M. – Family Christmas Party
- December 20 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree at St. Jude
- December 22/23 – Magnet Sales after all masses
- December 25 – Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
- January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
- January 2 @ 6:30 P.M. – Pro-life Rosary before Mass.
- January 5 @ 8:15 A.M. – Pray at Abortion Clinic
- January 5/6 – MEMBERSHIP BITZ!
- January 8 – Monthly Business Meeting; Rosary at 6:30 P.M.; Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
- January 12 @ 6:30 P.M. – BINGO!
- January 14 @ 7:00 P.M. – Mary, Queen of Peace Assembly Meeting at Council 6269 Hall
- January 15 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree at St. Jude
- January 19 – Fort Worth Knights Diocesan Conference at St. Jude
- January 22 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Planning Meeting
- January 26/27 – KNIGHTS CAN weekend
- January 30 @ 6:30 P.M. – Pro-life Rosary before Mass
- January 30 – Fort Worth Chapter Meeting at Council 2813 in Fort Worth

Knights of Columbus Council 7736
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