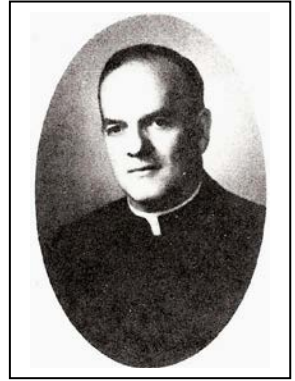


Father Maher's Knightly News



FR. PETER PAUL MAHER COUNCIL 6793 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Chartered April 21, 1976 • District 30 • Member of McNamara Chapter
Charter Council of the Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861
P.O. Box 570 Olney, MD 20830 • www.kofc6793.org

DECEMBER 2018 ♦ VOLUME XLI ♦ ISSUE 6



Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/KnightsOfColumbus6793/>

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Reverend James Boccabella, Pastor
Our Lady of Grace Church

E-mail: jimboccabella@msn.com Phone: 301-924-0067



Certainly, we begin with a sincere wish for God's blessings during this most holy time of the year – a time when we try to be the people we wish we were all year long. Except that, in the commotion and excitement and aggravation that are so often also a part of this season, we forget what and why and Who we celebrate.

The Prince of Peace came to show us the way to peace, to be able to maintain our patience and love and goodwill for not just our loved ones but also for those with whom we must compete for that last parking space at the mall, or for those pressed into service during this season, the retail clerks, delivery people, customer representatives, all of whom are other children of God, trying to earn a living, desiring the same things that we desire, wanting to be the people they wish they were all year long. Jesus came to model for us how to do that, by giving us the most precious gift in the universe, His very life, and inviting us to do the same, not by worrying so much about the gifts we will buy but rather about the gifts we will be, especially for those for whom this season might not bring the peace and joy to which we look forward.

There is no better gift that we could give to each other and to Jesus Himself, Who considers imitation not the sincerest form of flattery, but the deepest expression of our love for Him. And while we're looking for ways to show Him our love, we should also take advantage of the extra opportunities in all of our parishes to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to invite others to come with us, not only to Confession but also to

Motto: "Lord, direct our actions to fulfill Your will."

Mass, and not only for Christmas, but again, maybe another Sunday in January.

The most precious gifts cannot be purchased – they are freely given and freely received. Come, Lord Jesus! Show us Your way.

May God bless us all.

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

SK Joseph F. Krempasky, District Deputy (30)

E-mail: JKrempasky@gmail.com ~ Phone: 301-570-4891



December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of Mary
December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 25 - The birth of our Lord

All Grand Knights and Deputies should be planning to attend the Mid-Term Meeting, on January 5 at Columbus Gardens - Baltimore. There will be much to discuss including plans for the up-coming State Convention. Wives are welcome to attend for their day of fun and leisure.

Quarterly Reports should be ready to submit to your District Deputy (then to the State Rep.)

Form 1728 - Annual Activities Report must be submitted before January 31.

Many councils fall into neglect when it comes to council liability insurance. Although all events are carefully planned, accidents do happen, and should be adequately covered by insurance. If there is a concern in this area, I can supply the names of those familiar with the Knights of Columbus organization. These agents can recommend what should be adequate.

Many thanks to the council officers that have taken the very important Youth Protection Training. During this time of stress, the Knights of Columbus has taken a firm position on providing protection for the youth of our communities, and it

shows that our local leaders understand this.

From the families of District Warden, Kevin Kennedy and District Deputy, Joe Krempasky, please have a joyous and safe Christmas, and a wonderful New Year.

Vivat Jesus

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

GK Steve Sutkowski, Grand Knight

E-mail: ssutko9208@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-890-9308



We had a number of notable events in November and early December and I appreciate the time and effort put in by various Brother Knights to make these activities a success. These include the Memorial Mass and reception coordinated by Chris Romano with a heartfelt Mass by Father Jim and great food provided by Leisure World. Steve Goldhammer with help from Fred Whitman and Jim Street made our Silver Rose presentation a very spiritual experience in our support of pro-life programs. A great time was had by all thanks to Joe and Lynn Feakes and many helpers at the showing of Elf at the Olney Theater which included a great reception and food which everyone looks forward to each year. Last but certainly not least was the fantastic work at the Breakfast with Santa at the St. Peter's Christmas festival coordinated by such members as Joe Krempasky, Jack Giacalone., Kevin Kennedy, and several cooks, servers, and others, which made this a great event for the families of the parish. Thanks to everyone above for your work and support.

The holiday season would not be the same for our council without two very special events. One is, of course, the Christmas Party headed up by Fred Whitman with help by several others. Please see the flyer in this newsletter with information on the party and contact information for Fred to let him know that you would like to attend. Since this includes a number of activities including recognition of our Seminarians, Christmas Poster contest winners, raffles, and of course our gift event, you can expect a great time to be had by all. Also, see information in this newsletter on our annual caroling headed up by Steve Goldhammer which allows a number of members and families to show off their singing talent for a great cause.

In the spirit of the holidays, I wish all of you a peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year in the fellowship of your family and friends and hope for the New Year ahead.

Visit our website at www.kofc6793.org or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KnightsOfColumbus6793/ to stay informed of our future activities. Attend our business meetings and read our Newsletter to find activities that interest you and join in. Become a more active Brother Knight and support our Council activities.

Fraternally yours.

Steve Sutkowski

FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR REPORT

Knights of Columbus[®]
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE[™]

Patrick B. McAleer, FICF, PGK

Bus: 301-253-3856
Cell: 301-802-5850
patrick.mcaleer@kofc.org

Protecting Catholic families since 1882.

**Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
Retirement Annuities • Disability Insurance**

UNBELIEVABLE! DECEMBER IS ALREADY HERE! WHERE DID THE TIME GO?

I am sure many of you are busy shopping for your loved ones and filling in dates on your calendar with Christmas parties and family gatherings. I am. What a busy time of year it is!

Here is an idea, have you ever thought about Life Insurance as a gift? The gift that provides peace of mind.

The initial reaction for many people when you mention life insurance as a gift is a quick step back and a questioning stare. "How morbid", they think. While it may seem that way when first mentioned, life insurance is really a thoughtful gift that can be a financial life preserver in tough times.

The problem people have with life insurance is the general perception. Many think of death instead of the great benefits it provides, and the security it offers – even while you are alive. Life insurance should be thought of as a precautionary protective measure for a family unit. The purchase of a life insurance product can mean saving your home, sending your children to college and preserving your spouse's quality of life in the event of your death.

Consider adding this gift to your Christmas list and fill in the date on your calendar to meet with me.

In closing, I wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas season.

FAITH IN ACTION

Fred Taylor, Chairman, Faith Programs

E-mail: taylorwf8@verizon.net ~ Phone: 301-871-8928

My thanks to Chris Romano for an outstanding job in leading our Council Memorial Mass again this year. It was well attended by Widows of our Brother Knights and was a beautiful event followed by a lovely lunch at the Leisure World Clubhouse with great food and warm fellowship.

We also had the honor of supporting the Eucharistic Procession on November 4 from Manor Country Club to St. Patrick's Church. Over 500 Catholics were on hand for the procession down Norbeck Road that began a 40 Hour Eucharistic Devotion. It was uplifting to see people coming out of houses and kneeling when the monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament passed by and folk in cars on the other side of Norbeck Road slowing down and blessing themselves. I was moved to have had the honor of being one of the Sullivan Brother Color Corps supporting the event and guarding the Holy Eucharist.

We will be showing our support of Seminarians at our Christmas Party again this year on December 16. Two brother knights have again volunteered to match donations up to \$1500 to our Seminarian Fund. Make a part of your Christmas celebration your support of our Seminarians. Please take the time to care for and love each other and to pray the Rosary frequently.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY

As part of our Faith in Action Family service programs, we have instituted our Food For Families program. We will be collecting food for St. Martin's Pantry, who provides food to needy families.

There will be a box at all meetings for collecting food items. All food must be unexpired, sealed items. Items in shortest supply are canned soup, canned fruit, pasta sauce, "meals in a can (canned pasta, canned chili, etc.) and dry, unsweetened cereal.

So, when you are grocery shopping this month, pick up an item or two and help feed those in need.

CHURCH NEWS

Jim Street, Chairman, Church Activities

E-mail: streetjamese@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-717-2667

OUR LADY OF GRACE

Website: <http://ourladyofgracelw.weebly.com/>

Reverend James Boccabella, Pastor



A SODALITY CHRISTMAS PARTY MEMORIAL MASS

On Tuesday, December 4 (at 1:30p.m), join fellow sodalists in the Parish Center for a fun afternoon. This year we will be entertained by Leisure World's Fun & Fancy group. Enjoy some tasty holiday treats and try your luck on the 50/50 and door prizes. Start looking for your Christmas sweaters and other festive attire now.

OUR LADY OF BETHESDA RETREAT CENTER

'A way of disconnecting from the pressures of daily life and reconnecting to God'

Both men and women can enjoy and benefit from these special retreats which are based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. For women, the cost will be \$300, for their next retreat (November 30- December 2) weekend and for men, the cost will be \$225, for their retreat (December 7-9) weekend.

For further clarification, please call 301- 365-0612 or visit www.ourladyofbethesda.org to register.

OUR LADY OF GRACE & ST. PATRICK'S LEISURE CLUB

There will be a Catered Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 13 at noon in Our Lady of Grace's parish center. The cost of the Christmas luncheon will be \$16. To make a reservation and to register, call Vince Pistolessi at 301-871-3334 by December 7.

ST. PETER'S PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Website: <http://www.stpetersolney.org>

Reverend Thomas M. Kalita, Pastor



TWO SPECIAL SEASONAL EVENTS

From January 18 to January 22, **Saint Peter's Women's Retreat** will take place at the Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. It is designed to be a wonderful opportunity to spend quiet time with the Lord while being in a community of Saint Peter's Parish women. This year's theme will be: "Master, I Want to See".

Rev. Andrew Wakefield will be our speaker. Included in the cost will be a Friday night dinner, three meals on Saturday, a breakfast on Sunday morning, and the free usage of daily facility.

For more information on the cost of the retreat and to register, please visit Saint Peter's Web site at www.stpetersolney.org or call the Office of Adult Faith Formation at 301-774-0162.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Website: <http://www.stpatricksmd.org>

Monsignor Charles J. Parry, Pastor



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SAINT PATRICK CHURCH

On Saturday December 8 (following the 5:30p.m mass) there will be a Prime Rib dinner buffet and followed by a dance to the music of "Al Fresco Jazz Ensemble".

Please plan to share in a memorable evening with our former pastors and parish family at the Norbeck Country Club 17200 Cashell Rd. Rockville. Tickets are available for sale week days at the rectory.

ST. PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES 2018

Christmas is a season of giving and sharing our wealth with the less fortunate-- Our Homeless Brothers and Sisters--. On December 9, our parishioners will be gathering items to be compiled in shoeboxes to be given to homeless men and women of So Others Might Eat(SOME) soup kitchen.

The most in need items are: men and women socks, under clothing, winter gloves, hats, and scarves. Secondary, are men and women toiletries and hygiene items.

For further questions on what to give, please do not hesitate to contact Jack Gibala at (301) 871-8122 or marygibala@aol.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kevin Kennedy, Chairman, Community Programs
E-mail: kaiser52@comcast.net ~ Phone: 301-774-5014

Need Help - MATTHEW KELLY CHRISTMAS BOOK GIVEAWAY

Again, this year, the council will be giving away a Mathew Kelly book after Christmas Masses at St. Peter's (Olney) Parish, St. Patrick's (Rockville) Parish, and Our Lady of Grace (Silver Spring) Parish as gifts from the Parish.

We need your help to pass out books after Christmas Masses. Please contact the church coordinators (below) to volunteer 15 min. of your time at each Mass. We need 6-8 volunteers each Mass. Spouses and teens are also encouraged to volunteer. Your support on the book giveaway effort will demonstrate our KofC "Faith in Action" role supporting the Domestic Church!

Sometime after 12 December, we will also look for help putting labels in the books. Look for email updates for this effort.

St. Peter's Coordinator – Mark Fields
(301-570-0892 / markfieldscpa@msn.com)

St. Patrick's Coordinator – John Feldman
(301-924-3353 / jjf3353@comcast.net)

Our Lady of Grace Coordinator – John Carr
(301-438-3227 / BacBatch@aol.com)

COUNCIL POT-LUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday December 16 (2-5PM) at Our Lady of Grace Parish Center is the date to circle on your calendar....it is the 2018 Council Christmas Party! Highlights include:

- Christmas Carols
- "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest Awards & Guests (local Catholic elementary schools)
- Presentation of 2019 Seminarian Stipends (who can attend)
- A "Yankee Swap" Gift Exchange
- Council Fall Raffle Drawings (over \$1000 prizes)

You will have plenty of great food...you need to bring an entrée or side-dish for 8 people. The Council will provide everything else....salads, desserts, and drinks! Bring your appetites! Bring a wrapped gift (\$10-15 minimum) for the Yankee Swap....it is a lot of fun for all. The Council will provide gifts for the Seminarians!

This is a family event... even if you have never attended...try this one event! RSVP Fred Whitman (301-570-0354) and/or (shagger43@yahoo.com) by December 10. With questions and the number of people in your group & ages of any children you will be bringing. You will be home by Dark...especially for you Leisure World families!

Merry Christmas,

Steve Sutkowski, Grand Knight

FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

SULLIVAN BROTHERS ASSEMBLY 2861
"WE STICK TOGETHER!"

SK Edward Day, Faithful Navigator [www.sullivan2861.org]



Assembly Business Meetings are held the **third Thursday** of each month at 8PM. See this newsletter's calendar for details.

FAMILY NEWS

SK Joseph M. Feakes, Chairman, Family Programs
E-mail: Josephfeakes@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-774-0137

The upcoming holidays are a time for family. Please don't let these opportunities pass. Reach out not only to those close, but to those far away either by geography or circumstance.

God is part of every family. Don't forget about Him.

CULTURE OF LIFE NEWS

Steve Goldhammer, Chairman, Life Programs
E-mail: segoldhamm@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-570-9613

PUT YOUR PRO-LIFE BELIEFS INTO ACTION

The Gabriel Project assists needy women and women in crisis pregnancies in Montgomery County. Women volunteers (**especially bilingual Spanish speaking women**) are needed to stay in touch with client mothers. This includes keeping in touch with them via phone or email during their pregnancy, bringing them needed items such as diapers, baby clothes, etc. that are provided by the Gabriel Project, and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately 1 - 4 hours per month (or less).

Men are also needed to pick up donations once or twice per month. Daily prayer supporters are also needed. Donations of diapers, formula, and baby clothes are also appreciated. For more information, please call or text Toni Wohleber (240) 882-9893, or e-mail Carmen Rojas at gccthompson@juno.com.

LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

1. Abortion

In the next session of the Maryland General Assembly, there likely will be a heavily-funded media campaign against both the beginning and end of life. House Speaker Michael Busch plans to introduce a referendum to amend the Maryland Constitution providing abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy.

If passed, it would go to the voters on the 2020 ballot. (In 1991, there was a state referendum vote on abortion on the ballot and it passed by 61%, making Maryland one of the most liberal states regarding the regulation of abortion.) If the Constitution is amended, then even if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, abortion would be legal in Maryland and no state legislation could prohibit it.

2. Physician Assisted Suicide

In the 2019 legislative session, a bill to legalize Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) will likely be introduced. This will be the fourth year that such legislation will have been considered, being defeated the first three times. An organization, called The Dignity Mandate, has recently been formed in Maryland to educate the public about the dangers of legalizing this practice.

A 30-minute video, "Shining the Light on Physician Maryland Assisted Suicide," which includes interviews with medical professionals, disability rights advocates, and chronically-ill patients, has been created. It can be viewed at thedignitymandate.org/documentary.

The video will be discussed on a forthcoming segment of EWTN's weekly pro-life show. Councils may wish to consider sponsoring the video as a parish event. For more information, contact Laura Jones at 410-224-4807 or tomhj@prodigy.net.

3. Fetal Homicide

Laura Wallen, a Howard County teacher, was murdered in September 2017. She was 14 weeks pregnant with her son, Reid. Since Maryland law requires that a fetus be viable -- about 23 weeks gestation -- in order for the killing to be considered homicide, no charge was made in the infant's death. A bill titled "Laura and Reid's Law" that would do away with the viability requirement in murder or manslaughter cases was introduced into the last session of the General Assembly, but did not pass. It is expected to be reintroduced in January.

The General Assembly will convene for its annual session of 90 days beginning on January 9, 2019. To keep abreast of the legislation, sign up for the Maryland Catholic Conference's Catholic Advocacy Network at <http://www.mdccathcon.org/joincan> and follow Maryland Right to Life at www.mdrtl.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please keep these Knights and families in your prayers.

INDIVIDUAL'S NAME	RELATIONSHIP
Rev. Fr. Thomas Kalita	Pastor/St. Peter's Church
Rev. Fr. Louis Tou	Past Chaplain/Council 6793
Kayla MacBride	Niece/Fr. Kalita
Bill Gulban	Brother Knight
Barbara Mazonkey	Brother Knight
Karen Mazonkey	Daughter/Bob and Barb Mazonkey
Robert (Bob) Horrell PGK	Brother Knight
Sue Worley	Sister/ Jim Street
Dennis Gehey	Friend/ Fred Whitman
Sherry Colliton	Sister/ Andy Colliton
Kate Carroccio	Friend/ Andy Colliton
Stan Boreler	Uncle/ Pat McAleer
Hunter Shaffer	Nephew/ Ed Shaffer
Penny Schwartz	Widow/ Brother Knight
Margaret Schwanke	Widow/Brother Knight
Jennifer McDonald	Friend/ Fred Whitman
DECEASED'S NAME	DATE OF DEATH
Luke Engler	11/27/2018
Victims of the Borderline Bar Shooting	11/8/2018
Norb Reiner	11/2/2018
All the Victims of the Wild Fires in California	
Judy Lemon	10/23/2018
Leslie Horrell	9/25/2018

Continue to pray for the souls of our deceased armed forces.

BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR \$1500 Matching Challenge

Two anonymous council brother knights have again issued a challenge to all brother knights. They will match all donations to the council Seminarian Scholarship Fund up to \$1500 from January 2019 through May 2019!

The council welcomes the opportunity again to respond to the most gracious generosity of our council brother knights!



DECEMBER REFLECTIONS

Conflicting Rights in a Divided Nation

(by Lawrence P. Grayson)

The recent Senate Judiciary hearings to confirm Brett Kavanaugh as an associate justice of the Supreme Court were brutal to his personal reputation, devastating to the comity of the congressional body, and inflammatory in an already divided nation. Protesters shouted in the hearing room, had sit-ins in the hall, accosted a senator in an elevator and another while with his wife in a restaurant, put legislators' personal information on the internet, and later assaulted congressional candidates, while receiving encouragement from legislators who opposed the appointment.

The arguments against confirmation centered on an uncorroborated allegation of sexual misconduct when Kavanaugh was a 17-year-old high school student, and whether the unsupported assertion should outweigh his denial and three decades of exemplary, unblemished conduct as a lawyer, judge and public servant.

The stated concerns, however, masked the root reason behind them – maintaining the legality of abortion and the fear that a Justice Kavanaugh might cast the deciding vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. The abusive attacks were not tempered, even though just prior to the hearings Judge Kavanaugh said that he regarded the decision as “settled law.”

But what is settled? When *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, Justice Harry Blackman, writing the majority opinion, based a woman's right to abortion on a penumbra of privacy rights which though unstated in the Constitution were deemed implicit in the liberty guarantees of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. That right to abortion, the opinion continued, must be balanced by protection of the “potentiality of human life” of the fetus.

The Court in its ruling left one key point undecided. It stated: “We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. The judiciary at this point in the development of man's knowledge is not in a position to speculate as to the answer.” Further, if the personhood of a child in the womb is established, the right to abort “collapses, for the fetus' right to life is guaranteed specifically by the [14th] Amendment.” *Roe v. Wade* may be settled law and not be overturned, but it could be nullified.

Law and science are not yet in synchronization. With recent advances in obstetrics and neonatology, coupled with the increasing availability of ultrasound images, more and more people recognize that the fetus is an early stage of a preborn, developing person. Children now can survive outside of the

womb at 24 weeks of gestation and less. An unborn child is known to feel pain at 20 weeks. Fetal surgery is performed at 18 weeks and earlier. People can see a human form emerging at eight weeks. And, the developing child has a DNA distinct from that of its mother from the moment of conception. The science of embryology views life to begin the instant the male's sperm unites with the female's egg.

In order to bring law and science into harmony, the Life at Conception Act was introduced into both Houses of Congress in 2017. If enacted, it would define a person as existing from the moment of conception, thus providing a Constitutional safeguard for the life of the unborn child. A woman may then have a right to an abortion, but only if from the instant of its creation her child is not harmed.

That is the fear of those obsessed with sexual freedom, who do not want consequences for their actions. They claim complete autonomy over their bodies, even to the point of destroying a distinct being within them. They rebel at the threat to their independence and irresponsibility. In contrast, those who truly believe that everyone has a right to life, that people are created by God in His image and imbued with a soul can never condone abortion.

Compromise between such resolute, incompatible views can only be a temporary measure to gain a partial advance. The right to life from the moment of conception and the right to abortion cannot exist simultaneously. Passionate disagreements will continue, with one side or another having a legal edge depending on the current governmental leadership.

President Trump recognizes the importance of safeguarding human life from its earliest stages. In a letter to the National Right to Life Committee on June 28, 2018, he stated: “We all have a duty to defend the most fundamental and basic human right – the right to life. As President, I am dedicated to protecting the lives of every American, including the unborn.” He is taking steps to support his belief. Shortly after his inauguration, the President re-instituted the Mexico City policy to ensure that federal dollars are not used to fund non-governmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortions in other countries. The policy which was established by executive order is a political bellwether of the Administration's support for life at conception or abortion. First established by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, it was rescinded by President Bill Clinton in January 1993, reinstated by President George W. Bush in January 2001, rescinded by President Barack Obama in January 2009, and again reinstated by President Trump in January 2017.

The Trump Administration has also proposed regulatory changes to the Title X program, which supports family planning services for low-income women. These actions would block the availability of federal funds to family planning providers like Planned Parenthood that offer abortion services.

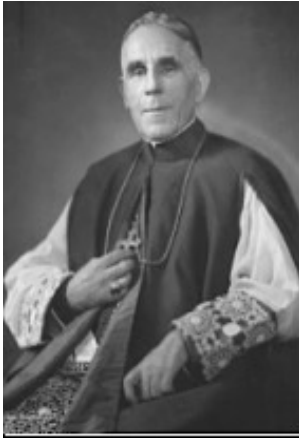
Further, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan states: “HHS accomplishes its mission through programs and initiatives that cover a wide spectrum of activities, serving and protecting Americans at every stage of life, from conception.” Undoubtedly, as these plans are implemented through regulations, the Supreme Court will be presented with a case to resolve the conflict between the implied right to abortion and a definition of when life begins. Justice Kavanaugh, as a presumed swing vote, will once again be in the midst of turmoil.

CHAPTER NEWS

Bishop McNamara Chapter - Established 1963

[Website: <http://kofcknights.org/ChapterSite/?D=103>]

McNamara Chapter Marshall – Michael P Davenport



Consider attending a Chapter meeting where Knights from other councils meet and discuss their programs. It's a great place to share and learn ideas for your council to participate in!

December Chapter Meeting (Christmas Party)

Date: December 19, 2018

Time: 8PM

Location: Fr. Michael C Kidd Council @14455, 12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, MD

SUPREME NEWS

[WEBSITE: <http://www.kofc.org>]

Source: K of C Supreme Website

THE GREATEST DAY OF OUR LIVES

In the life-changing event of baptism, we are reborn as adopted sons and daughters of God



(by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori)

WHAT HAS BEEN the greatest day of your life? Was it the day you met or married your spouse? The day your child came into the world? The day you landed a job you were seeking? When I was ordained to the priesthood in 1977, someone said to me, "This must be the greatest day of your life."

And it was an incredibly joyous and grace-filled day to be sure — but it was not the greatest day. No, the greatest day was the day of my baptism.

For the majority of you, like me, the great event of your baptism probably took place a short time after you were born. Unless you were baptized and received into the Church as a young person or an adult, you won't remember that utterly life-changing moment of sacramental grace.

This brief event, which likely took place quietly at the back of a church with only a few people present, was greater than anything else that could happen to us. In other words, our greatest day actually occurred before most of us could walk or talk or even feed ourselves. Whether or not we've thought about it or are convinced of it, the day of our baptism will be eclipsed by only one other day — the day when, by God's grace, we enter the Kingdom of Heaven, gazing at the Trinity in adoration with all the redeemed.

What, then, constitutes the greatness of baptism? Jesus answers this question in the Gospel of John when he says to Nicodemus: "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Holy Spirit" (Jn 3:5). Through baptism, we enter into the life of the Trinity, and this new reality can only be described as a rebirth into a wholly new way of life and love.

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes: "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Rom 6:3-4). This is to say that we begin to share God's Triune life by being immersed (baptized) into Christ, sharing personally and intimately in his death and resurrection by which he saves us from our sins.

In sharing the life of Christ, we also share in the life of his Bride, the Church. In baptism, we become members of the Body of Christ. Baptism is the gateway to the entire sacramental life of the Church, most especially the Eucharist, in which we join with our fellow Christians in sharing in the one sacrifice of Christ that brings salvation to all. Our baptismal innocence is recovered and renewed by the sacrament of reconciliation. In baptism, we also receive a vocation to love as Jesus did — to bear witness to the Gospel of Love by putting into practice a generous, forgiving love extended to all, most especially to those in need. This baptismal calling to love receives specific form as we come of age. Many are called to fulfill their baptismal call in the vocation of marriage and family. Others are called to the priesthood and consecrated life, and still others live good and holy lives while remaining single men and women.

I'd like to suggest that living and serving as a Knight of Columbus is a most important way of responding to our baptismal call to love and service. By living the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, we deepen our sharing in the life of the Trinity; we grow in our capacity to imitate Christ; and we are immersed more fully in the life and mission of the Church.

Let us therefore live each day the principles of the Order, never forgetting to give God thanks for the greatest day of our lives.



Visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/KnightsOfColumbus6793/>

**Knights of Columbus
Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793**

Annual Family Christmas Party



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 (2-5 PM)

**Our Lady of Grace Parish Dining Hall - 15663 Norbeck Boulevard
Each family is asked to bring a main dish *or* side dish for 10.**

Council will provide beverages and desserts.

- *Christmas Music *Great Food*
- *Christmas Raffle Drawing*
- *Introduction of Seminarians*
- *Recognition of Christmas Poster Winners*

“Chinese Auction/Yankee Swap” Gift Exchange

Please contact Fred Whitman (240-550-1007) shagger43@yahoo.com

No later than December 8!

Tell us the number of people in your group and ages of any children you'll be bringing.



DEC 12 WED -- Business Meeting, 7:30PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World.

DEC 16 SUN -- Council Pot-luck Christmas Party, 2-5:00PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World

James E. Dooley
Licensed Funeral Director
Jim@CollinsFuneralHome.com



Francis J.
COLLINS
Funeral Home, Inc.

500 University Boulevard West
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901
www.CollinsFuneralHome.com

(301) 593-9500
Fax (301) 593-6551

HELLO!
MY NAME IS:
Advertising here could be
GREAT for your business!

For rates and details, email Don Hemke:
[**Gumpermd@verizon.net**](mailto:Gumpermd@verizon.net)

Council Member
Patrick J. Madden, D.D.S.



1600 Veirs Mill Rd.
Rockville, MD 20851
(301) 762-4010

envirotreat
PROFESSIONAL PEST SERVICES



NATIONAL
PEST
CONTROL
ASSOCIATION



MARYLAND
PEST
CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

Jeffrey L. Belmont
Owner - PCO
State Certified

www.enviro-treat.com
Maryland 240.750.9413

24 HOUR ESTIMATES >> LICENSED >> INSURED
RESIDENTIAL >> COMMERCIAL



Lilla L. Hammond, CRS, GRI

Long & Foster Realtors

6000 Executive Blvd., Suite 100
North Bethesda/Rockville, Md
C.301-518-7818
O.301-468-0606

Email: lilla@lnf.com

Serving you in Md. & DC



Father Maher's Knightly News

is published monthly by

**Father Peter Paul Maher Council
Knights of Columbus Council #6793**



*We proudly serve the parishes and families
of St. Patrick's (Rockville), St. Peter's (Olney)
and Our Lady of Grace (Silver Spring).*

**THIS SPACE
SHOULD BE OCCUPIED BY
YOUR
ADVERTISEMENT!**

For rates and details, email Don Hemke:
[**Gumpermd@verizon.net**](mailto:Gumpermd@verizon.net)

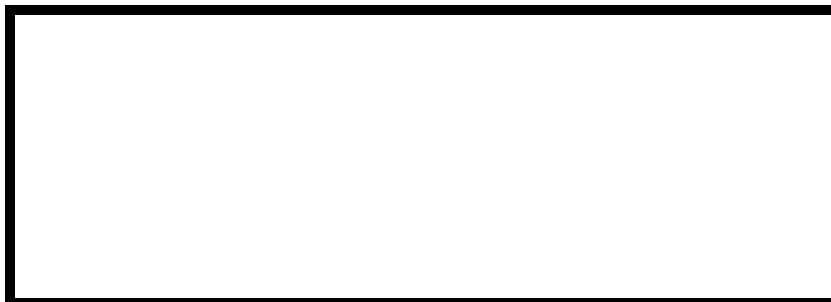
greatamericanphoto
Photography

schools sports seniors families business portraits events
schools sports seniors families business portraits events
schools sports seniors families business portraits events
schools sports seniors families business portraits events
schools sports seniors families business portraits events

greatamericanphoto.com · 301.440.4280
663 Southlawn Ln Rockville, MD 20850

**Knights of Columbus
Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council #6793
Post Office Box 570
Olney, MD 20830**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SUBURBAN, MD 20898
PERMIT #3920**



DEC 5 WED **Executive Meeting**, 7:30PM, St. Patrick's Parish Center
DEC 12 WED **Business Meeting**, 7:30PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World
DEC 16 SUN Council Pot-luck Christmas Party, 2-5:00PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World
DEC 19 WED Bishop McNamara Chapter meeting, 8PM, Fr. Michael C Kidd Council @14455, 12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, MD
DEC 20 THU Sullivan Brothers Meeting (Color Corps Event), 8PM
DEC 26 WED **Social Meeting (CANCELLED)**



JAN 2 WED **Executive Meeting**, 7:30PM, St. Patrick's Parish Center
JAN 9 WED **Business Meeting**, 7:30PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World
JAN 19 WED Bishop McNamara Chapter meeting, 8PM, Rosensteel Council, Rosensteel Ave, Silver Spring MD
JAN 23 WED **Social Meeting**

► **For more information about or to participate in any council event, contact Grand Knight Fred L. Whitman on 240-550-1007.**
► **Council Calendar:** View it at: www.KofC6793.org (Select "*Event Calendar*" at the left and the current month's calendar will be displayed.) Scroll forward to view upcoming events.) To view **Monthly Business Meeting Minutes** on the website: (On the HOME screen, scroll to the bottom of the page, on the right, select "*Access Minutes*" in the Council Minutes section.)
► **DEADLINE:** Newsletter content **MUST** be sent, via e-mail, to **Daniel Musiitwa [DMusiitwa@hotmail.com]** **NO later than the 20th of the month** to be included in the **following month's publication**. Newsletter content questions or story ideas may be sent to **Daniel** via e-mail, *anytime* or call him on (202-320-6806).