



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 20 Issue 6 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - STAR COUNCIL** December 2014

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL NO. 11422
HOME OF DISTRICT DEPUTY MICHAEL DAVENPORT & FORMER DISTRICT DEPUTIES
VERNON HAWKINS, JR., DAVID D. MARTIN & CARLTON L. WILLIAMS
“BE NOT AFRAID, OUR FAITH IS OUR COURAGE”



“O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!” This ancient chorus of the grand *Christmas* hymn *“Adeste Fideles”* seems to echo wherever we go this time of year. The words call to mind images of worshipers gathered in awe around the manger in *Bethlehem*. Yet in that beloved refrain we should hear as well the invitation to gather around our *Eucharistic Lord*. The busy weeks of *Advent* and *Christmas* might seem a most unlikely time to consider spending an hour or two in prayer before the *Blessed Sacrament*. What with gifts to buy and wrap, cards to address and mail, homes to clean and decorate, parties to plan and attend - to say nothing of children out of school for the holidays, how could anyone possibly squeeze another commitment into such a crowded schedule? Yet, in the stillness of *Christ’s* presence, we can find a place of peace. We can regain a proper perspective on our activities, a vision of what is truly important. And the simple joy of the season can find its way back into our hearts.

I pray that you all enjoy the blessing of *Christmas* and that *Christ’s* peace be with you during this joyous season and throughout the *New Year*.

Vivat Jesus!

Thomas F. Matthews, IV

**Thomas F. Matthews, IV
Grand Knight**

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GRAND KNIGHT'S CHRONICLE

Thomas F. Matthews, II - Grand Knight



Worthy Brothers, time waits for no man. This fraternal year is swiftly passing us by. If you have not done anything for our council this year, now maybe the time to get involved. A few of the upcoming events are the Thanksgiving Baskets for a family that might not be as blessed as we have been, the Christmas trees sale is right around the corner and the Council Christmas Celebration is approaching fast. Get involved. I

know many of us can't do much but you can assist on one of the committees by making a phone call or just being there to support the brother that can do physical task. Conversation can go a long way while some of us are working. Every member of our council is important and we would like to know how you and your family are doing. Drop us a line, give us a phone call or show up at a meeting. Our motto this year is "if everybody does a little, nobody has to do a lot" If anyone knows of a brother or his family that needs our help or just needs someone to visit them, please let us know. We do so much for those we don't know personally, it is time to do things for the brother in our council and their family.

Our council has received several awards thus far this fraternal year. Family of the Month Award, Star Council Award, Silver Knight Award along with other recognitions from State. None of these awards would be possible without the assistance of every member of our council. One of the Presentations that we share with the Church Community is the Family of the Month presentation. It is such a wonderful event to let our church family know the great things that members of our community do in the background to make sure our community stays afloat. The families appreciate it and so does the community.

The scholarship program is now collecting fund for our high school senior that are planning to continue their education. Let not disappoint them but assist them in achieving their dreams. These children are our future, let make sure they remember the wonderful thing we are doing for them. Be it a donation, mentoring them or just a quite prayer that they succeed. None is more important that the other but let's do something.

The Holidays are quickly approaching. I want to wish each and every Brother and their Family a Blessed, safe and Wonderful holiday. Keep Jesus in your life and the will be nothing that you can't handle

Vivat Jesus!

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS

Fr. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Today is the *First Sunday of Advent*. The word "Advent" means "coming." We light the 1st Advent candle today, preparing for the coming of Christ, the eternal light who will pierce the darkness of the world. Just as a light gets brighter, the closer it comes to us, the Light of the World is symbolically coming closer to us and getting brighter by each additional candle that we light during the four Sundays of Advent.

The Light of the World that we prepare for is the coming of Jesus. Yet, we should also be preparing for Jesus' Second Coming. Saint Cyril wrote: *"At the first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At His second coming He will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming, He endured the cross, despising the same; in the second coming He will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then, beyond the first coming and await the second."*

"Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming."

Jesus' first coming brought us salvation and with salvation, He gives us abundant graces. We must accept His graces to guide us through this life, because the time of His Second Coming will be unexpected; therefore, we must use His graces to always be prepared. Advent then is a time of expectancy along with our waiting in hope. Advent is forward looking. It is different from Lent, which is a time of reflection and examination.

We know that we are preparing for Christ's coming, but what should we do to prepare? In today's world, we are busy with many things. However, what we need to be most busy doing, is praying. When we pray, we are talking to and listening to God. There is no better way to prepare for Christ's coming in our lives, than through prayer. Then, as we prepare to remember Jesus' First Coming, we will not fear His Second Coming, but will look forward to it.

HAPPY ADVENT!

COME PRAY WITH US



All Council Members

*Are Invited To
Knight's Sunday
Every 3rd Sunday
Of The Month*

At The 11 A.M. Mass

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Stephen J. Adamczyk - State Deputy



Kathleen and I just returned from the State Deputies Mid-Term Meeting. It proved to be a very productive endeavor, with informative exchanges with the Supreme Director, Carl A. Anderson and his staff, as well as with my fellow State Deputies.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore addressed the Order's assembled State Deputies during their first full day of meetings. The State Deputies were joined in their meetings by the State Chaplains.

Supreme Knight Anderson encouraged the Knights to find ways to do even more for the Church and for charity. "The greatest enemy we have is complacency," the Supreme Knight said. "We don't have the right to say it's good enough." Key to the Knights efforts must be evangelization in word and deed, and that evangelization must have a missionary dimension, he said.

The Supreme Knight encouraged the state leadership to be "the strong right arm of the Church" and to react quickly when bishops need or request the Order's assistance. He also encouraged further membership growth, pointing out that an increase in membership not only enabled the Order to engage in even greater acts of charity, but also provided those who join with the opportunity for growth in the faith. As part of helping member grow in the faith and evangelizing marriage and family life, the supreme knight suggested that each knight and his family should pray together each day. The Order is distributing a Prayer for the Family written by the supreme chaplain that families can say each day.

We are approaching the halfway point of the fraternal year. It is utmost importance to keep membership at the forefront of your activities. Please ask every eligible catholic man to join our ranks. Results of the membership blitz are still being received, the numbers so far are looking good and will be shared with you at the Mid-Term meeting January.

On behalf of Kathleen and myself. I would like to wish each of you and your families a very Happy and Holy Christmas. I deeply appreciate all the work that you have done to make the year to date so successful and rewarding. During this very special time in which we observe the birth of our Lord, I ask you to continue to be aware of all those around us who are in need, especially the elderly. Please take this time with your families to be joyful and thank God for the many blessings which are ours.

Vivat Jesus!

Have You Visited The State Website Lately?

<http://kofc-md.org/>

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Michael P. Davenport - District Deputy



We celebrated the giving of thanks in November and this month we celebrate the birth of our Savior. In the aftermath of violence and turmoil between law enforcement and the people we witness how our actions can affect each other. In the spirit of forgiveness and communication

I would like to add a prayer to this report. Father, blanket us with the Holy spirit. Open our hearts and minds. Touch our souls. Bless us to receive your grace and wisdom. Mold us, teach us and inspire us. You have made us unafraid with the shield of our faith. Please Father be the water for our souls and the air that we breathe. Without you there is no us. Fill us with the song of love and healing as we give ourselves to you from the essence of our being. We pray for your healing rain to restore our souls. Make us conduits of your words, channels of your peace and tools for your purpose. Gather us for your glory. Through your blessings and our actions make us resonate as beacons of your light and in accordance with your will. Amen

The most powerful motive to holiness is knowing that Jesus knows our hearts. Through the action of how we live our lives, motivated by the grace inside we have the power to affect the world as it changes as we walk through it. Charity is a good beginning. During this time we should remember those less fortunate than ourselves. God brings his children into deep waters not to drowned them but the cleanse them. We have to be strong in our faith and study so that we can affect change through action. We do this by staying in touch with Christ. By plugging into the spiritual supercharger of Grace you will know that you can handle, and know how to handle anything. God empowers us with the grace and his love to have faith and to understand that he has is invested in us and that His Pastoral care and guides us safely thru the deep valleys. He whispers to us through our Grace showing us how to deal with old and new challenges. Through reflection, prayer, study and the use of our minds, acts of charity, gentleness and respect we grow the part in us that craves to understand ourselves, the God in us and the God in others.

A Facebook page called District 3/32 is up and thriving and exemplifies the power of communication and Council support of one another. The page is an excellent resource for communication throughout the district and encourages our acts of charity. District Deputy Romeo and DW Joe Massimini have put this together as a resource for Councils in the two districts. It has developed into a tool of support for each other and posting of accomplishments. With that said lets make this month the best ever!

"Be Not Afraid Our Faith is Our Courage"

SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



This month as we celebrate the event of Christmas, I suggest we also contemplate what we might call the process of Christmas — the series of events that began in March with the angel's Annunciation to Mary and is brought to fulfillment on December 25th with the birth of Jesus.

In his account of the Annunciation, St. Luke writes "Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah" [1:39]. We also know that when Mary greeted Elizabeth "the child leapt in her womb." The prophetic ministry of John the Baptist to proclaim the coming of the Messiah actually began while John was still in Elizabeth's womb — itself an eloquent pro-life testimony. But St. Luke's account bears even more dramatic witness to the humanity of the unborn child. St. Luke is so concerned to make a precise record of both pregnancies at the time of the Visitation that he records the Archangel Gabriel telling Mary that Elizabeth is "in her sixth month." Then St. Luke tells us that Mary's visit to Elizabeth lasted about three months. Elizabeth then gives birth to John the Baptist. In this way we understand that Mary must have left to see Elizabeth almost immediately after the Annunciation — a journey she made "as quickly as she could."

Elizabeth's words to Mary — "Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" — show us that while Jesus

may be only five days old, he is the Lord. The Incarnate One who is present within Mary when she visits Elizabeth is not potentially the Messiah; he is at that very moment the Messiah.

Jesus, when he was first recognized as the Lord by Elizabeth, was at the same point in his biological development as are the thousands of embryos that have been conceived by means of in vitro fertilization and later destroyed because they are no longer wanted by their biological parents and as those thousands of embryos whose death is now sought to provide stem cells for scientific research. Those embryos that society today willingly destroys are no less fully human than was Jesus on the day of the Visitation.

This Christmas we rejoice in a God who brings to us in Mary's child the Gospel of Life. Our Order has done much during the years to "Keep Christ in Christmas." But, the story of his life

before, as well as at his birth, is one our society desperately needs to know now.

During our Christmas celebration let us also take time in our homes and in our councils to join Mary on her pilgrimage to Elizabeth. Let us prepare to observe our 42nd Annual March for Life on January 22, 2015. And as we take this historic step to advance the pro-life cause, let us do so with the same firm hope of the one who heard from the lips of an angel that "nothing is impossible to God."

"This Christmas rejoice in a God who brings to us in Mary's child the Gospel of Life."

BISHOP WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Francis P. Blidi - Faithful Navigator



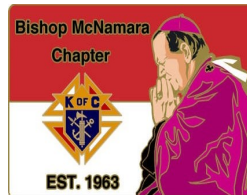
The next Bishop Walsh Assembly meeting will be held on Monday, December 8th at St. Piux X Council, Sarto Hall, 3611 Stewart Road, Forestville, MD 20747-1747. Join us, the meeting starts promptly at 8 P.M.

Christmas Party - The Annual Bishop Walsh Assembly Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 18th at St. Joseph Catholic Church. The party will start at 7 P.M. This is a "Pot Luck" event. All brothers are asked to attend and bring a dish to feed 10 to 15 people. This is also a family event, yes, families are welcomed.

I Wish You & Your Family A Blessed & Safe Christmas

BISHOP MCNAMARA CHAPTER

Richard Earenfight - Chapter President



Join us for the **Annual Bishop McNamara Christmas Party**, December 17th at Fr. Michael Kidd Council 14455, Holy Family Church, Parish Hall, 12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, Maryland

20721. The festivities will commence promptly at 8 P.M. Holiday Dress is appropriate. The menu will include: Rib Eye Steak, Garden Salad, Vegetable-potato Saute' and a selection of deserts. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Advanced reservations and payment at the door accepted. RSP to Chapter President Richard Earenfight: 10327 Summit Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895; 240-672-2291 or email at pgk12796@yahoo.com.

Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!" Mt 4:19



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ikechukwu R. Agbim, DGK

iagbim@gmail.com

202-276-7796

FedEx Field Centerplate Concession Stand Work:



We are now at end of-season of this year's NFL games. Thanks to all Brothers who participated in the concession stand service. We are delighted that our Council did more working during games and events at the FedEx Field. A few more games and events are scheduled this season.

Remember: Stadium Concession stand work is fun!



We will now get visibility mileage as well, as we have received our new white polo's adorned with our Orders 3rd degree Logo and council name! We met our goal of getting more brothers trained and increasing our funds raised in through participation at CenterPlate Stands.



THE "CUP OF JOE" BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Our Council has approved sponsorship and execution of one Cup of Joe breakfast program this holiday season. Our proposal has been discussed with the Social Justice Ministry, who gave us a go ahead and provided us with necessary coordination for it. We are proud to deliver this work of charity to our fellow men and women who would otherwise not have a chance of a meal. All who are interested in volunteering their time for this program can contact me to sign up.



"CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES" A CAMPAIGN WITH TOOTSIE ROLL REWARDS

Tootsie Roll candy: "Thank You"



This year's Tootsie Roll Campaign is coming to an end. We've had a better year than last year, and hope to continue improving in subsequent years. In addition to solicitation at the Parish, we were able to get approval from Giant Store of Largo to solicit in front of their store for two weekends: November 14, and 21. Special thanks go to Brother Bill Harris who braved a below freezing temperatures to work with me in this location. Other brothers made efforts to assist in one way or the other. The result of this year's drive is dedicated to your sacrifices and commitment.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Alan Davis, Church Activities Director
adavis1960@verizon.net



301-536-0732

Brothers, we are now in the season of Advent. It is a season of preparation in anticipation of the coming our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Knights it is a season for us to rededicate ourselves to our fellow Knights, our Catholic Brothers and Sisters and to our own relationship with God as deliberate disciples.

This is an excellent time for all council members to volunteer to help others in the community and in our church. Whether we help with preparing Christmas Baskets for those in need of food, the handicapped by selling tootsie rolls, the children who are disadvantaged by bringing gifts to church, selling Christmas Trees to benefit the church or as ministers during Knights' Sunday, we can impact the lives of so many during this Advent season.

Brothers, please take advantage of this season to live out all the tenets of our faith and of our Order. Seek out the Activities Directors and volunteer to make an impact on your own discipleship and on the lives of others.

*Wishing you the Love,
Peace, and Happiness that
the true meaning of
Christmas brings.*

The Blessings Of
Christmas

PEACE * HOPE * JOY * LOVE

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com



301-249-2955

The council's annual *Christmas Tree Sale* is underway. Sales commenced on November 29th, and will continue until all trees are sold, hopefully, no later than December 24th. We have great trees this year! They are green, fresh, full and ready to brighten the Christmas spirit in your home.

Council members and parishioners can sign up to work the tree lot beginning Saturday, November 29th. Please contact Cal Thompson or Alan Davis to volunteer time. The lot will be open daily from 1 P.M to 7 P.M. and on the weekends from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. No donation of time is too small, but most shifts are 3 to 4 hours.



***I Want
 YOU
 To
 Purchase
 A
 Christmas***



*First 2 Trees Sold November 29, 2014
 By DGK Ike Agbim*

Pssst'

***For The Best Ticket
 In Town...Get Your's Early.
 See "Vern" For Your
 Mardi Gras Ticket.
 February 14, 2015***

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Bernard Broadus, Community Activities Director
Bernard.broadus@xerox.com



301-262-2350

Brothers, the Council has joined again with the St. Joseph's Church Good Samaritans' Ministry to support its **"Help Bring Warmth Again This Winter To Our Youngsters"**. The objective of this program is to collect new coat and outer apparel drive for local schools. The Good Samaritans have partnered with various local public elementary schools: Carmody Hills, Columbia Park, Dodge Park, Highland Park Elementary Schools and Kenmore Middle School.

Council members and parishioners are asked to donate "new" winter coats and winter apparel to help address the needs of our local community. Please donate NEW hats, gloves, scarves, socks, sweaters, coats and jackets.

Donations will be collected in the Good Samaritan's Project Warmth box located in the church foyer outside of the Church before and after Mass. School personnel will distribute these articles to the most needy students.

The drive will end on December 7th. Questions regarding Project Warmth can be directed to: Carolyn Brooks at 301-316-1216 or Evangeline Dyer at 301-390-9392.

MEMBERSHIP QUEST

John W. Huntley, Membership Director
jhuntley@some.org



240-441-9086



I am so proud of the efforts our members make to give of their time to participate in the council's many activities. As your Membership Director, I am proud to announce and congratulate Christopher Okala and John Grier on their successful completion of their Third Degree on November 21st at Holy Trinity Council 3413 in Severna Park, Maryland. Chris and John are pictured above from left to right, flanked by District Warden Emeka Onwezi and Deputy Grand Knight Ike Agbim.

The Power of One

***One Member,
 Per Council,
 Per Month.***

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Gabriel O. Nmorka, Family Activities Director
 ogmorkson@comcast.net



301-350-7637

Fellow Parishioners, the Knights of Columbus, James C. Fletcher Jr. Council 11422 is overjoyed to recognize our one and only Father Roy E. Campbell, Jr. as the Council's top family pick for this month Family of the Month (FOM). Ever since Fr. Campbell became the Pastor of St. Joseph Church, the Fletcher Jr. Council and the entire parish have enjoyed remarkable services. Fr. Campbell has a mother, three brothers and two sisters. He was ordained as a Deacon in 2004. Being a devout Christian, at the completion of his fourth year of Permanent Diaconate formation for the Archdiocese of Washington, he answered our Lord's call to the priesthood a little later in life than most men.



he asks for our prayers after he prays for us. He is a Pastor who welcomes constructive suggestions, ways to help and serve the church community. Whenever Fr. Campbell senses an anxiety in the parish family about any issue, he discloses and talks about it simply to establish an understanding for a normal co-existence amongst the parishioners.

Fr. Campbell was ordained a Priest in 2007. Three years thereafter, he was installed the Pastor of St. Joseph Church. He has served St. Joseph Community in kindness and humility. His humility often times resonates in his homily at Masses as

After Fr. Campbell was installed as the Pastor of St. Joseph Church in 2010, he joined the Knights of Columbus, James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council, assumed the role of a Chaplain to the council and supports every council activity. Indeed the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council is very proud to have such a dedicated and caring brother as its Chaplain. The entire council thanks Father Campbell for his service to our God, our council and our faith community. God bless you each day in Jesus name. *Amen!*

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Phil Beauboeuf, Youth Activities Director
 pabeaub@us.ibm.com



240-353-1460

Before you know it, Christmas will be here and the "Keep Christ In Christmas" poster contest will be over. In this day of commercialism, it is getting harder and harder to do just - "Keep Christ In Christmas". In our busy lives with family, work and outside activities pulling us all in different directions, it is very easy to forget what the Advent/Christmas Season is all about. It is for this very reason that we hold a Poster Contest with the children. We want them to become more focused on what this time of year is all about - *Our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ.*

Keeping Christ in Christmas is keeping the very heart and meaning of the Christmas celebration alive.

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Dr. Peter Methodius-Ngwodo, Pro-Life Director
 pmethodius@yahoo.com

301-328-9142



"Every Life is a Gift" will be the theme of the 2015 *March for Life* this coming January. Since developing babies who receive a difficult prenatal diagnosis (such as Down Syndrome, Trisomy 13 or 18, Spina Bifida, etc.) have a much smaller chance of being brought to term by their mothers and fathers, the *March for Life Education and Defense Fund's* discussion will feature leading experts on cutting-edge research to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and offer opportunities for a full life and improved support for their families.

Mark Your Calendars! In 2015, the anniversary date of the *Roe v. Wade* decision will fall on Thursday, thus the *March for Life* will be held on Friday, January 22, 2015. It is an annual pro-life rally protesting abortion, held in Washington, DC, on or around the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion in the case *Roe v. Wade*. The march is organized by the *March for Life Education and Defense Fund*. The overall goal of the march is to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Please plan now to attend. Your presence, in growing numbers every year, is the best way to draw attention to the untenable legacy of *Roe v. Wade*, and to persuade our leaders to eradicate it from America's future.

**Maryland State
Knights of Columbus**

Basketball Free Throw

Coming In February 2015

Open to Girls and Boys, Ages 10 – 14

School of the Incarnation
 2601 Symphony Lane
 Gambrills, MD 21054

Co-Chairmen
 Michael Furst – 410.931.0954
 Paul Mullenhoff – 301.262.3963




FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR

Roger Doucette, Field Agent
 Roger.doucette@kofc.org

240-678-6680



Time To Reflect & To Look Ahead

Liturgically, the last Sunday in Ordinary Time reminds us of the end times. Advent urges us to prepare for the birth of our Savior. Sharon and I wish you and your families all the blessings of the Christmas season and great health, peace, and happiness in the New Year.

This has been an extraordinary year for the Knights of Columbus and James C. Fletcher, Jr Council 11422. All have worked to move the Order and Council to new heights. With the right dedication and commitment, we will achieve even more in 2015, with God's help and with Fr. McGivney's intercession. Our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson expressed these thoughts in the current issue of *Columbia*: "Our insurance is both ethical and faithful to Father McGivney's vision. It is insurance by brother Knights, for brother Knights. Our investments reflect our Catholic values. This is the Knights of Columbus difference."

"... a brother Knight can choose no better company for the protection of his family. In choosing Knights of Columbus insurance, a brother Knight is making a commitment to his family's future; he is making a commitment to ethical investment and corporate governance; and he is making a commitment that benefits his Church and community."

By working to bring reality to Fr. McGivney's vision, we all benefit.

FLETCHER CHARITIES

Peter Methodius, President
 pmethodius@yahoo.com

301-728-7827

The James C. Fletcher Charities solicit your generous Tax Deductible Donations toward the 2015 Academic Scholarship Program. Please, remember **ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 2014 TO QUALIFY FOR TAX DEDUCTION DURING THIS NEXT 2012 FILING SEASON.**

Thanks for your continued financial support to this worthy program. God Bless. Make checks payable to: J.C. Fletcher, Jr. Charities, Inc. Points of contact are Peter Methodius, 301-728-7827 or Harold Sanders, 301-717-9410. You may also drop your donation in the J.C. Fletcher, Jr. Charities Inc. box in the church lobby.

K C LADIES AUXILIARY

Cathy Gresham, President

301-868-5795



As we enter the season of Advent, we usually reflect on all the reasons to be thankful and this can be overwhelming. While life may not always be easy, God's love and grace has seen us through. With this in mind, the K C Ladies Auxiliary express their thankfulness to God through service to others.

As an auxiliary, we contribute annually to St. Vincent De-Paul's Food Pantry, St. Ann's Infant Home, St. Joseph's Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Clothing drive, honor our seniors with a Spring Tea, we have adopted a needy family at Christmas, and sponsor pictures with Santa for the CCD students.

Service to St. Joseph Church by individual K C Ladies is no exception. We are represented in the St. Joseph Anniversary Committee, Choir, Bereavement Support Team, Hospitality Ministry, Good Samaritans, Eucharistic Ministry, Lecturer and we're always among the first to volunteer for other St. Joseph events. God has blessed us and we give Him thanks and praise.

On behalf of all the ladies, may you have a *Happy and Blessed Christmas*. We offer this prayer to you and your family:

Dear God,
 We thank you for the many blessings in our lives.
 Help us to carry out our mission by being
 a beacon in the life of others.
 Make us constantly aware that everything
 we do is for your glory and honor.
 Amen

"We Wish You A Merry Christmas"



Marian Title for December
Our Lady of Guadalupe



On December 9, 1531 Juan Diego, a simple indigenous peasant, had a vision of a young woman while he was on a hill in the Tepeyac desert, near Mexico City. The lady told him to build a church exactly on the spot where they were standing. He told the local bishop, who asked for some proof. He went back and had the vision again. He told the lady that the bishop wanted proof, and she said *“Bring the roses behind you.”* Turning to look, he found a rose bush growing behind him. He cut the roses, placed them in his poncho and returned to the bishop, saying he had brought proof. When he opened his poncho, instead of roses, there was an image of the young lady in the vision.

Today, the icon is displayed in the nearby Basilica of Guadalupe, now one of the most visited Catholic shrines in the world. The Virgin of Guadalupe is Mexico’s most popular religious and cultural image, with the titles “Queen of Mexico, Empress of the Americas, and Patrones of the Americas.”

Let Us Always Remember



James C. Fletcher, Jr.

May 20, 1934 - June 28, 1994



Please, Remember In Your Prayers

Members Who Are Ill



*Howard Wynn
 Jerome Julius
 Joseph Marshall
 Ken Hinton
 Donald Wilson*

*James Shorter
 Mary Julius
 William Tolbert
 Roscoe Campbell
 William Missouri*



REFLECTIONS*Lawrence P. Grayson***CHRISTMAS AMIDST GROWING SECULARISM**

Christmas is rapidly approaching. It is a time when, in spite of the secular influences that surround us in our daily lives, we experience the joy and peace of God's presence. The story of Our Lord's birth, however, is so familiar that we often do not appreciate the meaning and significance of the event.

This day, almost 2,000 years ago, when the "*Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,*" marked a turning point in human history, a new era for the human race. Without Christ's birth – and His death and resurrection 33 years later -- the gates of heaven would still be closed to us. God had come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He who was the maker of the world, before whom "*the pillars of the heavens tremble,*" took on the lowliness of man and thus exalted the dignity of humanity.

Jesus was not created as we were, with a beginning to our existence. As God, he is eternal, existing outside of time. At His birth, His divine nature united to itself a human nature through Mary. In a much lesser sense we have a similar union of two aspects to our human nature, with body and soul. One is material that will return to dust, and the other spiritual that will continue forever and be rewarded or punished for our earthly behavior.

Our Lord did not come as God in the guise of man, nor come as part God and part man, nor was His nature a mixture of the divine and the human. Rather, Jesus became truly and completely human, while remaining truly and completely God. With all of the human shortcomings He assumed, there was never any lessening of His divine nature. His actions and teachings were always those of the Son of God. This is the essence of the Incarnation, the union of two natures, the divine and the human, in a single person who exerted both. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, in *Life of Christ*, described this union as "not so much the conversion of the Godhead into flesh, as the taking of manhood into God" -- a privilege that not even the Angels received.

His birth changed our relationship with our Creator. God was no longer an unseen, unknown, ethereal divinity, a mystery that was beyond our comprehension. Now he was a proximate God, with a human nature and form who experienced love and sorrow, joy and friendship, suffering and death to which we could relate. Now we could develop a personal relationship with God. As Pope Benedict XVI, in *Jesus of Nazareth*, wrote: "now we know his face, now we can call upon him."

We are in this temporal life to work out our salvation so that we may merit an eternity in the kingdom of God. Jesus, through His coming, gave us the means – grace, the Eucharist, His Church – to attain that salvation.

In spite of the profound implications for mankind of Christ's birth, there are continuing movements to deemphasize the religious meaning of Christmas. First, the holy day was changed to a holiday and commercialized. It now is the norm to exchange untold numbers of greeting cards and engage in an inordinate amount of gift-giving. The shopping spree is well underway. Even before Halloween, stores began to display Christmas decorations. What once was a month-long market-

ing blitz starting at Thanksgiving is now a two-month effort to convince us to spend money on material goods.

Next, the holiday was secularized. Shortly after World War II, Christmas was often referred to as Xmas, with the presumed rationale that X stood for the Greek letter chi, the Christian symbol for Christ. While the latter is true, it deemphasized the focus on the birth of Our Lord. Major retailers had for a time – and many still do -- stopped using the word Christmas in their advertising and with their customers. Shoppers frequently hear the sterile refrain, "Seasons Greetings," as they purchase "holiday" trees. Crèches were replaced with displays of winter scenes, sleighs, trees, bells, birds, Santa Clauses, and about anything other than a reminder of what occurred in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

Even the focus on Santa Claus, gift-giving and Xmas was not enough. More recently, in the guise of tolerance and inclusiveness in our increasingly multicultural-sensitive society, there are efforts to eliminate all references to Christ. Christmas programs and traditional carols that refer to God are removed from school programs, while students have a winter break. Nativity scenes are banned from city halls and shopping malls. The Board of Education of Montgomery County recently eliminated all references to religious holidays from the school calendar, while some schools even stay away from the use of red and green colors in this season lest they evoke a recollection of Christmas. The same Christ Child who could find no place in the public inn is now being expunged from public memory.

The silencing of Christmas is more than just being concerned about the sensitivities of non-Christians. It is a step toward suppressing those moral beliefs that stand for the protection of the unborn, the sanctity of life at all stages, the inviolability of tradition marriage. There can be no further accommodation without an annihilation of Catholic identity, a loss of religious freedom, and a denigration of societal mores based on virtue and morality.

Let us not be hesitant to express our religious beliefs and celebrate our traditions. We must not allow secular forces to remove God from the culture and thus to preclude His public recognition from the experiences of our children and grandchildren. While celebrating the birth of Christ is a sign of faith in God, it also is a public recognition that we and this nation owe our existence to God.

In the days ahead, let us display a crèche in our homes and yards, patronize retailers who recognize Christmas, send religious greeting cards, promote seasonal songs that praise God, and prepare ourselves spiritually -- say the rosary, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, go to Confession, meditate on the liturgical readings -- so that when we go to Mass on Christmas Day, we can be truly joyous about the birth of our Lord.

May Jesus continue to live in our hearts, our society, and in the world. Merry Christmas!

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 7, 2014

- Second Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 8, 2014

- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (HDO)
12:00 Noon & 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 14, 2014

- Third Sunday of Advent

Friday, December 19, 2014

- Penance Service 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 21, 2014

- Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

- Christmas Vigil Mass: 5:00 P.M.
- 11:00 P.M. Choir, Carols & Hymns followed by:
- Christmas Midnight Mass: 12:00 A.M.

Thursday, December 25, 2014

- Nativity of the Lord Mass: 10:00 A.M.
(Holy Day of Obligation — One Mass only Christmas Day)

Sunday, December 7, 2014

- Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 28, 2014 (Reg. Mass Times)

- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Wednesday, December 31, 2014

- Mary, the Mother of God Vigil Mass: 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, January 1, 2015

- Octave of Christmas, Mary, the Mother of God: 10:00 A.M.
Holy Day of Obligation (HDO)

Sunday, January 4, 2015

- Epiphany of the Lord

ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the “*penitential*” Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent.

The Advent Wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that typically holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle of the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candle are lit, the four candle is lit on Christmas Day.

Traditionally, each of the four candles on an Advent Wreath has their own meaning. The first Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Hope** with the Prophet’s Candle reminding us that Jesus is coming. The second Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Faith** with the Bethlehem Candle reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. The third Sunday of Advent symbolizes **Joy** with the Shepherd’s Candle reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus. The fourth Sunday symbolizes **Peace** with the Angel’s Candle reminding us of the message of the angels: “*Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.*”





Contributor: SK Dave Thomas

*When you stop believing in Santa Claus
is when you start getting clothes for Christmas*



Entering Heaven

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by
Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

"In honor of this holy season," Saint Peter said,
"You must each possess something that symbolizes
Christmas to get into heaven."

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled
out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You
may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out
a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells."
Saint Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates."

The third man started searching desperately through his
pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's glasses.
St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And
just what do those symbolize?"
The man replied, "They're Carol's."



Christmas Fireman

In a small Southern town there was a "Nativity Scene"
that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it.
One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were
wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up
with a reason or explanation, I left.

At a "Quick Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady
behind the counter about the helmets.
She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You damn Knights never do
read the Bible!"

I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall
anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled
through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage.

Sticking it in my face she said "See, it says right here,
"The three wise man came from afar.""



**I told Santa you were good this year. . . and
He hasn't stopped laughing since!**



FLETCHER COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Thursday, 18 December 2014
7pm**

*St. Joseph Church - Rosemont Room
Bring The Family - Bring A Friend*

**Whip Out That Recipe Book
And Bring Your
Favorite Dessert
The Council**

Will Provide The Rest

Santa & His Elves

Will Be There With Gifts

Your Point Of Contact

**Ike Agbim
Deputy Grand Knight
iagbim@gmail.com**



**MARDI
GRAS**



**FEATURING
"THE EXCLUSIVES"**

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2015
Time: 7pm 'til Midnight
Where: St. Joseph's Rosemont Room
2020 St. Joseph's Drive
Largo, MD 20774
(301) 773-4838



- Menu**
- Creole Seafood Gumbo
 - W/Rice
 - Marinated Herb Baked Chicken Leg Quarters
 - BBQ Meat Balls
 - Southern Style Potato Salad
 - Seasoned Green Beans
 - Roll and Butter
 - Punch, Coke
 - Louisiana Coffee
 - "Open Bar"



**Mask Optional
Or
Semiformal**



"A Truly New Orleans Gala - Traditional Mardi Gras - Superb Music & Entertainment"

ADMISSION ONLY \$40.00 PER PERSON

For Tickets Call - Vernon Hawkins (301) 336-0284 - vhawkinsjr@aol.com
**Sponsored By The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council
Knights of Columbus**

EACH OF US IS A
MASTERPIECE
OF GOD'S CREATION.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

**6' – 8' FRESH-CUT
FRASER FIRS**

NOV. 29 – DEC. 24

**ST JOSEPH CHURCH
PARKING LOT**

**2020 St Joseph Dr
Largo, MD 20774**

**Weekdays 1pm – 7pm
Saturdays 9am - 7pm
Sundays 9am – 7pm**

**ONLY
\$33.00 PER TREE**

**Proceeds benefit the James C. Fletcher, Jr.
Charities, Inc. Scholarship Program**



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”

****DECEMBER****

- 2014 -

- 01 Anthony McIntyre
- 03 James Boomershine
- 04 Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
- 05 Gerry Anderson
- 07 Phil Beauboeuf
- 11 Hugo F. Braden
- 12 Emmanuel Ogbuaku
- 15 Eugene Poole
- 16 Garland Green
- 16 Ernest S. Bechet
- 17 Marcel Desroches, Jr.
- 17 Damian C. Okonkwo
- 17 Dwight Palmer
- 18 Brian Graham
- 23 Lorenzo Hylton
- 23 Ikechukwu M. Ezekwu
- 24 Osamuoku Asemata
- 25 Christian U. Aguocha
- 25 James A. Gant
- 25 Noel U. Osuchukwu
- 25 Deacon B. Curtis Turner
- 26 Giles Bragg
- 26 Martin U. Onwu
- 28 Innocent U. Nwaopara



**“What, You
Are How
Old?”**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****DECEMBER****



- 04 **Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 P.M.**
- 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 08 Immaculate Conception
- 08 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 8 P.M.
- 17 McNamara Chapter Christmas Party, Fr. Kidd Council,
8 P.M., Holy Family Church, Mitchellville, MD
- 18 Fletcher Council Christmas Party
- 21 Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Eve
- 25 **Christmas**
- 31 **New Year's Eve**



Maryland State Council Officers

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| State Deputy | Stephen J. Adamczyk |
| District Deputy | Michael P. Davenport |
| District Warden | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Field Agent | Roger Doucette |

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Chaplain | Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr. |
| Associate Chaplain | Deacon Alton Davis, Jr. |
| Associate Chaplain | Deacon A. Douglas Turner |
| Grand Knight | Thomas F. Matthews |
| Deputy Grand knight | Ikechukwu R. Agbim |
| Chancellor. | Jose R. Barberena |
| Warden. | Alan M. Davis |
| Financial Secretary | Robert B. Sistare |
| Recorder. | Damel S. Goddard |
| Treasurer | Harold F. Sanders, Jr. |
| Lecturer. | Michael P. Akpan |
| Advocate | J. Bernard Broadus |
| Trustee 3 year. | John W. Huntley |
| Trustee 2 year. | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Trustee 1 year. | Charles N. Okpah |
| Inside Guard. | Vincent Akas |
| Outside Guard. | Ernest E. Bennett |
| Convention Delegate | Thomas F. Matthews |
| First Alternate | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Second Alternate | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |

Program and Activity Committees

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Service Program Director | Ikechukwu R. Agbim |
| Church Director | Alan M. Davis |
| Council Director | Calvin A. Thompson |
| Community Director | J. Bernard Broadus |
| Family Director | Onyema G. Nmorka |
| Youth Director | Philippe A. Beauboeuf |
| Culture of Life Director | Peter Methodius-Ngwodo |
| Vocation Chairman | Jose R. Barberena |
| Health Services | Peter Methodius-Ngwodo |
| Public Relations | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Columbian Squires | Michael P. Davenport |
| Membership Director | John W. Huntley |
| Recruitment Committee | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Recruitment Committee | Alan M. Davis |
| Recruitment Committee | Calvin A. Thompson |
| Retention Chairman | Charles N. Okpah |
| Insurance Promotion | Robert B. Sistare |
| Pro-Life Couple | Peter & Justina Methodius-Ngwodo |
| First Degree Team Captain | Robert B. Sistare |
| Newsletter | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Web Master | Michael P. Akpan |
| Scholarship Program Chairman | Peter Methodius-Ngwodo |
| Historian | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Photographer | Thomas F. Matthews |

Squires Circle Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Chief Squire | Jordon Gill |
| Deputy Chief Squire | Agya Adomuko |
| Notary | Justin Okpah |
| Bursar | Justin Onyeador |
| Sentries | Nelson Okpah |
| Spiritual Committee Chair | Stephen Bazuaye |
| Membership Committee Chair | Kofi Nyome Mireku |
| Service Committee Chair | Chinazom Ojiaku |