



# ***KNIGHTLIFE***



***JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL 11422  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - STAR COUNCIL***

***Volume 21 Issue 6***

***December 2015***

***"BE NOT AFRAID, OUR FAITH IS OUR COURAGE"***



**FLETCHER COUNCIL WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE**

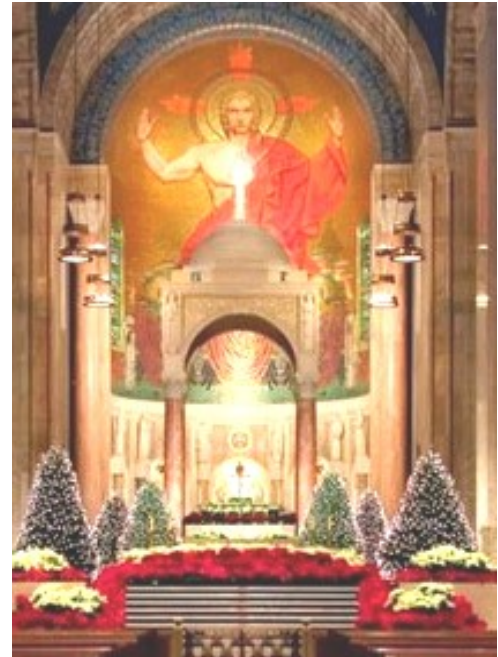
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# KNIGHTLIFE

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*National Shrine Of The Immaculate Conception (Upper Church)*

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## Chaplain Report

# Chaplain Thoughts. . .

*"Your redemption is at hand"*

by Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



**BE PREPARED**, for He is coming! This is Advent's message to us and to the world. The word advent means *"the arrival of a notable person or thing."* That person is the Word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ. God is fulfilling His promise, as we heard in our reading from Jeremiah. *"The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah."*

However, Advent also means the Second Coming of Christ, as King and judge of all. We also heard in our reading from Jeremiah, *"he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: 'The LORD our justice.'"* Jeremiah lived during Israel's exile in Babylon. The Israelites may have thought that he spoke of their earthly Jerusalem, but we know that our Lord of justice will bring us the safety of the New Jerusalem, the kingdom of heaven.

We are called to be a part of the New Jerusalem, by staying prepared, by growing spiritually in Christ, the Light of the World. We grow in spiritually in Christ when we treat others as He does, with care and compassion. This takes away our fright of what is to come, just as it did for the martyrs who gave their lives for Christ. When we prepare for the coming of Christ, when we recognize the signs of His coming, we can stand straight, secure in our faith, our hope, and our love of God and each other, knowing that we have strived for holiness in this life, so as to receive it abundantly in eternal life.

Today, the Advent Wreath has one candle lit, the lowest on the stand. Each week of Advent we will light another candle, one level higher that the previous week. The increased brightness of each additional candle lit, represents the increasing brightness of the coming of the Light of the World, our Lord, Jesus Christ at Christmas.

## Grand Knight's Chronicle



**Ikechukwu R. Agbim**

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*"Let's continue to do the best for our faith, church and community"*

Our Council continues to enjoy immense program improvements! October was quite busy with several programs completed satisfactorily. We are ready for Advent!

The Silver Rose Run came and the service was very well attended and successful. This year's Tootsie Roll Campaign was a record setter for our Council. The number of volunteers has risen and we took in a total record setting amount. Our participation in the Veneration of relics of African Saints was also very noteworthy. The Youth Halloween Party was equally well attended by a record number of kids and their parents. A good number of our Council members participated in the Closing of the 40-day prayer at Metropolitan Family Clinic in Greenbelt.

We are indeed blessed, as we experience much prosperity in our works as a Council.

Our programs at Fletcher Council continue to embody Charity, and our love for our neighbors and mankind in general. We've continued to execute our Family of the Month program and sustained our Seminarian support initiative.

This coming month, we sell Christmas Trees. We also host a Christmas Party for Fraternal year's excitement continues to grow. Our Recruitment efforts continue, we host another First Degree on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November to usher in 5 new members in the first Degree of our Order.

In the coming weeks, we hope to finalize Insurance coverage for the Squires, and KC Ladies.

We continue to encourage participation of greater number of Knights in our programs; so that when we *"...give a couple of hours a month to our council"*, there's is no mountain we cannot climb!





## State Deputy's Report



**Stephen M. Cohen**  
State Deputy

Vicki 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 Vicki 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 Report

*Brothers All,*

I bring you greetings from our Worthy State Deputy Stephen Cohan whose motto is *"Be Not Afraid Our Faith is Our Courage"*.



**Michael Davenport**  
District Deputy

November was the month in which we remember our deceased brothers and their windows. Maryland State has had memorial services and activities to honor our lost ones.

We made an extra effort to recruit growing our Council family and making way for a Fall and Winter of holidays and time spent with families. We must always remember as a primary protocol of our Order *"Family is First"*. We often forget this very important protocol while catching up on reports and activities and our charitable deeds for others. Without family we fall behind in one of our primary functions and blessings in life. Providing for our families spiritually and in everyday living goes hand in hand with Father Michael J. McGivney's calling, the primary principle on which our Order was built. While breaking bread on Thanksgiving we give thanks for our family which includes our church family, your Knights family, your extended family and the family of mankind. We all too often take for granted where we are and what we have. There is a family out there whose needs far exceed what any of us could bear. It doesn't take much to take time to remember pray and realize the blessing of family. It takes a little bit more to reach out and make a difference.

This month was a milestone in the Catholic fraternal benefits society's mission to protect the future of Catholic families. The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization with nearly 1.9 million members worldwide. As you are aware it's also one of the most active charitable organizations in the United States. The Knights set a new record for charitable giving with donations of more than \$173.5 million and 71.5 million hours of service to charitable causes. The coats for kids program exemplifies what we can do as a collective charitable organization. Supreme Council donated 600 boxes of coats. The State of Maryland's goal was 500 boxes. We met that goal with District #3 as one of the leaders in providing 8 boxes between 4 Councils.

It's time for the submission of our activity reports which gives State a glimpse of what we do and provides our future brothers templates of extraordinary charitable works. The soccer challenge is done and the basketball free throw is on the horizon. The Mid-Year Membership Meeting has been planned and we're moving quickly towards half way through the year. My brothers the Holidays have begun. The time of giving is now and always as we remember to be not afraid and that our faith is our courage. Continue your recruitment and retention efforts and thank you all for the great work you do. Remember that States goal is your success. *We are charitable, we are Knights!!!!*

*Vivat Jesus*



## Supreme Knight's Message

### The Gospel of Life

by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson



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 25<sup>th</sup> 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."*

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

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 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual March for Life on January 22, 2016. 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."*

## What Happens If You Live?

David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

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202-494-6527



### The Security of Long-Term Care Insurance

Thanks to marvelous innovations in medical technology, and advances in living and working conditions, many of us will enjoy long, prosperous lives. With average life expectancies on the rise, there's a lot to be grateful for and look forward to. But living longer also comes with added responsibilities that we must take seriously.

Typically, when thinking about insurance products, we think about *"what ifs"*. For life insurance, we think: what if we die. For auto insurance, we think: what if we get into an accident. For medical insurance, we think: what if we get sick. For disability insurance, we think: what if we get injured.

But for long-term care, the question is different. It's not just what happens if something happens to us, but what if something *doesn't* happen? What happens if we live?

*"So what,"* you say, *"I won't need long-term care."* But the statistics tell a different story. 70 percent of individuals over the age of 65 will need some type of long-term care services during their lifetime. And, just as you would imagine, paying out-of-pocket for long-term care is neither brief nor cheap. The average duration of long-term care needed per individual is 3 years, at an annual cost of \$83,000 for private nursing home care, and \$60,000 for at-home nursing care.

Traditional medical insurance programs, and government medical insurance programs don't usually provide enough help either. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, Medicare only pays for long-term care services for a maximum of 100 days, and only if you meet certain criteria. Medicaid does pay for long-term care, but only if your income is below a certain level, and you meet state requirements. As for employer-sponsored or private health insurance plans, they typically cover a limited range of services, similar to what Medicare provides for.

Subsequently, many of us are left drawing from our own resources, or our family's resources to cover long-term care costs. It can be an expensive proposition just when cash resources need to be preserved for retirement. That's why long-term care insurance should be considered part of an overall sound insurance protection strategy, and that's why the Knights of Columbus is proud to offer long-term care insurance to our members and their eligible family members.

Simply put, long-term care insurance is designed to help cover the cost of your long-term medical needs.

Available in 3-year, 5-year, and 10-year\* benefit periods, our flexible plans come with a number of different options and ways for you to customize your long-term care coverage to help fit your unique needs and budget.

You choose a daily benefit amount that the policy provides, as well as whether or not you want to be covered for care in an assisted-living facility only, or have the option of receiving medical care at home.

You may also elect to purchase a Compound Inflation Rider, which will increase your maximum lifetime benefit by 3 percent\* or 5 percent each year.

And, should you choose to apply for long-term care insurance with your spouse, each of you will receive a 30 percent discount through our Spousal Discount program.

There are many other factors and considerations that go into the crafting of a Knights of Columbus long-term care policy. Your dedicated Knights of Columbus agent can help explain your options.

Contact me to help ensure that your family and your assets are protected from the unexpected and substantial cost of long-term care. After all, you have always taken care of your family. You don't want to worry about what would happen to them if you could no longer take care of yourself.



## Master' Log



**John F. Winfrey**  
**Master 4th Degree**

*Brothers All,*

I wanted to drop you a note to wish you all a Blessed and Holy Christmas. During this time of the year we take stock of what our Lord and God has provided. All we have to do is look around and we see good friends, loved ones and family. What a blessing those gifts are. We also, during this time, look forward to the prospects of a new year. What does our Lord have in store for us this upcoming year? We have to ask what will be the good or the challenging, and how will we be touched. It is truly a Glorious time! I

will tell you one of the most treasured gifts I have received is this District family, and the friendship I have with you, my Brother Knights. Many organizations call themselves brothers, but here in this group I know we mean it. We are a true family, pulling together for a greater good making this world a better place. Our mission, as Sir Knights, is focused on the Patriotic, but our Order has a much wider scope. That scope is to touch all God's people in a positive way. This is the true meaning of Christmas.

Here is my wish for you and your family: I pray that you in your own way find room to reach someone who is troubled during this Holy season. Remember this time of the year isn't always easy for many. Some, even within our own Knights family, find it difficult to see the hope that Christmas brings. Whether it be money issues, a loss of a family member, or just the challenges of life many struggle to realize that God has a plan for us. So with that here is my hope and wish for you. Reach out to a Brother Knight a neighbor, coworker, or friend and help them see this meaning of this season through you.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would also like to ask you remember those heroes of our Nation who are unable to be with their families, because that are protecting our freedoms around the world. Those men and women are providing us daily with the ultimate gift **FREEDOM**.

## 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree



The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree will be conducted on April 1-3, 2016 at the Colony South Hotel located at 7401 Surratts Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Candidates must be: (1) Over 18 years of age; (2) A third degree member in good standing in his council and (3) A practical *Catholic* in union with the *Holy See* and (4) A *US Citizen*, or willing to *Pledge Allegiance to the USA*.

The basic fee for candidates is \$70.00. A special fee for priests and members of religious orders is \$35.00. Full payment should accompany each candidate's application and reservation form. Each candidate receives one (1) banquet ticket to the *Fourth Degree Banquet*. Additional banquet tickets are available at a cost of \$45.00 per person. The fee for the Ladies' Activities is \$25.00. All checks must be made payable to: **Master, Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree**. All applications, banquet reservations, outstanding fees, and *Ladies' Activity* reservations must be received by the *District Secretary* on or before February 29, 2016. There will be no refunds or changes after this date.

Please forward all applications and reservations to *SK Micheal W. Thumm, 19244 King James Parkway, Lexington Park, MD 20653-3627*. To ensure that all applications are accurately completed, the candidate's application must be received, voted on, and approved by the Assembly before it is submitted to the Secretary to the Master.

## Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



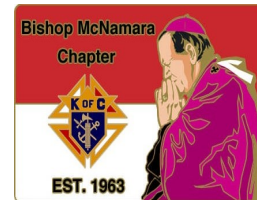
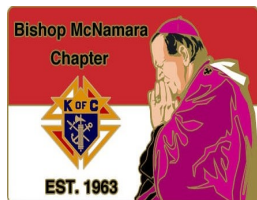


## McNAMARA CHAPTER

Tom Firestone - Chapter President

tf6687@aol.com

240-753-5200



Join us to celebrate Christmas at the Bishop McNamara Chapter Christmas Party on December 16th. It will be held at Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council 14455, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 12010 Woodmore Road in Mitchellville, Maryland. The festivities will commence at 7 P.M. The dress code is **HOLIDAY DRESS**. Cost is \$27.50 per person. RSVP Chapter President Tom Firestone at: tf6687@aol.com or 240-753-5200.

As we close down this year to start anew, the members of the Bishop McNamara Chapter and their families wish you and your family a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

## WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

G. Emeka Onwezi - Faithful Navigator

onwezi@gmail.com

240-644-3537

### VIVAT JESUS



We are half way through our fraternal year and we have accomplished some of our goals through the help of our dear members. We have voted to amend our Assembly's Constitution, had a successful Religious Knight for our Priests and Nuns in partnership with St. Piux X Council 4076, increase meeting attendance, and donated some items to our veterans through Volunteer Service Office in Veteran Hospital in DC. In fact, members of our Assembly donated about 200 tooth brushes, 120 tubes of tooth paste and delivered them to the VA Volunteer Office on November 19, 2015. We will continue to appreciate our veterans and support them, no matter how small.

In the remaining six months of this fraternal year, we will be working on the other goals that we have not accomplished yet. Our Assembly will be co-hosting a Christmas party with James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council on December 17, 2015 at St. Joseph Church Hall located at 2020 St. Joseph Drive Largo, Maryland 20774.

Remember we are still looking for the third degree members to join our 4<sup>th</sup> degree. The applications have been in circulations around the councils covered by our Assembly. We will like to get the completed application back to the Assembly by the first week of December so that we can vote on the applications at our December meeting.

*I, my wife Chizoba and my entire family wish everyone a Merry Christmas.*

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR MEETING TIME FROM 8 P. M TO 7 P.M. REFRESHMENT SERVED STARTING AT 6:30PM.**



## PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Alan M. Davis, DGK

adavis1960@verizon.net

301-808-8009

**Brothers**, we are rapidly coming to the end of the second quarter of this fraternal year. The council has been very productive with our service programs during the first two quarters. Some of our activities include two summer flea markets, the 1st Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast, Youth Halloween Party, Silver Rose Liturgy, 40 Days of Life Closing Ceremony, Veneration of the Relics of Black Catholic Saints and our annual Tootsie Roll Campaign. Thanks to the efforts of just a few members of the council, we have continued the high standard of excellence Fletcher Council is known for statewide.



**Brothers**, our next council activity is our Christmas Tree Sales Program. Please volunteer your time and make every effort to help set up and sell trees this Christmas season. The fence and trees arrive on November 27 and 28 and sales begin November 29. Your help is always welcome and needed to help Fletcher Council's continued success this quarter.

Our Tootsie Roll Campaign just ended with the highest donation total the council has ever achieved. Special thanks to Grand Knight Ike Agbim, Chairman Cal Thompson, District Warden Gabe Onwezi, PGK John Huntley, PGK Tim Matthews, Fidelis Ajudua, Alex Brown and John Grier, all of whom volunteered their time at Giant, Walmart and St. Joseph.

*The Blessings Of*  
**Christmas**

**PEACE \* HOPE \* JOY \* LOVE**

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Alan M. Davis, Church Activities Director  
adavis1960@verizon.net



301-808-8009

When we Catholics think or reflect on Advent or Christmas, what images come to mind? Most of us think of Santa Claus, gifts, family, holly wreaths, lights, season's greetings and good cheer. Although there isn't anything wrong with thinking of or feeling this way about those things, we should also think of Christmas as a beginning. A beginning of our new life, a life in the spirit God. Think of this as the time when God sent His only Son as a gift to us to lead us in this new life and to redeem our souls. The time when our souls feel their worth. We in turn should then give ourselves to our fellow brothers and sisters and share God's grace with everyone we meet along the way. Being active in the Knights of Columbus is one way we can accomplish this goal. My brothers, during this Advent and Christmas season, take time to help, to visit and assist those souls who God has placed in your lives. Contact a fellow council member you may not have seen recently, call him, ask how he and his family are doing. Volunteer at church, or in the community, or anywhere there is need. Remember the first principle of our order is **charity** and **charity** is **love** and **love** is the *beginning of all things great and small*. **MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

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

### 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 "**Project Warmth**" to help children at Dodge Park and Highland Park Elementary schools, and Kenmoor Middle School. The objective of this program is to collect **NEW** articles of clothing for Boys and Girls, including: **HATS-GLOVES-SCARES-SWEATERS-SOCKS-COATS and JACKETS or Monetary donations made payable to Good Samaritans Ministry.** Drop off your **NEW** items in the box located in the church foyer or your checks in the donation box anytime up to December 13th. Questions regarding Project Warmth can be directed to: Carolyn Brooks at 301-316-1216 or Evangeline Dyer at 301-390-9392.



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





## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director  
calthompsn@msn.com

301-249-2955

. . . . As it was recorded in the chronicles of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council, for all to see, “A call went out for **HELP**, and the response was unbelievable . . . Everyone lent a hand, and the hectic activity schedules for December thru March was a piece of cake”. Brothers, this is what I pray we can write in April.

Christmas Tree sales are from November 28th thru December 24th. The lot will be open Wednesday - Friday, from 3 P.M. - 7 P.M. and on the weekend (Sat-Sun) from 9 A.M. - 7 P.M. There are 3-shifts on the weekend; 9 A.M.-1 P.M., 12 P.M.-4 P.M., and 3 P.M.-7 P.M.

Volunteers are needed to erect the fence the day after Thanksgiving and to receive the trees the following day.

As you are aware, our Annual Mardi Gras Dance is February 6th and the volunteer line starts at Vernon Hawkins and Cal Thompson, so please, as Bob Barker used to say, “Come on down”!

On the heels of the Mardi Gras, are our weekly Friday Lenten Fish Fries. Labor intensive? You bet! But if we have enough volunteers to share the load, it will not be burdensome.

So keep those dates and activities in mind Brothers, and plan to be available a day or two.

### CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

6 – 8’ FRESH-CUT FRASER FIRS

NOV. 28 – DEC. 24

ST JOSEPH CHURCH  
PARKING LOT

2020 St Joseph Dr  
Largo, MD 20774



Wed-Fri 3pm – 7pm  
Saturdays 9am – 7pm  
Sundays 9am – 7pm

ONLY  
**\$35.00 PER TREE**

Proceeds benefit the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Charities Scholarship program



### CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

Peter Methodius Pro-Life Activities Director  
pmethodius@yahoo.com

301-728-7827



“Pro-Life and Pro-Woman Go Hand-and-Hand” will be the theme of the 2016 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 2016, 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, 2016. 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.

### 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.

Maryland State  
Knights of Columbus



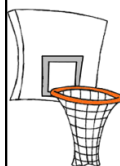
### Basketball Free Throw

Coming In February 2016

Open to Girls and Boys, Ages 10 – 14

School of the Incarnation

2601 Symphony Lane  
Gambills, MD 21054



Co-Chairmen  
Michael Furst – 410.931.0954  
Paul Mullenhoff – 301.262.3963





## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Gabriel O. Nmorka, Family Activities Director  
ognmorka@gmail.com

301-350-7637

### *Family of the Month The “Akas” Family*



The Holiday Season is around the corner and we all know it's a time that symbolizes a very deeply significant truth of the spiritual life of any Christian Family. If we may, let us continue to do good deeds to keep reflecting our true Christian values. This Knights Sunday, the Vincent, Sr. and Ngozi Akas family's worship and service in St. Joseph Church Parish indeed exemplify the Christian values.

In the year 2000 Vincent, Sr. and Ngozi became members of St. Joseph Church and are parents of three children: a daughter, Ashley and two sons: Vincent, Jr. and Victor. Vincent, Sr., a devout Christian attends mass regularly. He's a loving and caring father who provides religious support to his family. Vincent, Sr. is an active member of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council and participates in most Council's activities. The most recent was his participation in the Silver Rose Prayer Service. Also on Knights Sundays, he often serves as usher at the 11:00am mass.

Ngozi, a spiritual mother, leads the family in prayers at home imparting some religious ethics to the children. She also volunteers to serve in some church activities requiring some help.

Vincent, Jr. the first son has grown up strong in the Catholic Faith, and for his deep belief in the Principles of the Knights of Columbus, is today a member of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council. He participates in the Can Food drive that benefits Charities affiliated with the Knights of Columbus Order.

While Ashley helped in tutoring the Saturday children religious class, stuffing of bulletins, assisted in Christmas church decorations, once a member of the children's choir and participated in some other children's activities, Victor contributes to some children activities. Notably is his role as an alter server at Sunday 11:00am mass.

For those noteworthy services to our Council and the Church Community, the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council of the Knights of Columbus would like to acknowledge the family of Vincent, Sr. and Ngozi as the November, 2015 Family of the Month.

Heavenly Father, may you guide and richly bless this family for ever and ever in Jesus name. Amen!

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



## MEMBERSHIP QUEST

**John W. Huntley, Membership Director**  
[jhuntley@some.org](mailto:jhuntley@some.org)



240-441-9086

Joining the Knights, the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council in particular, has been one of the best decision in my life. Not only has my faith and relationship with Christ strengthened, I have met a group of men that amaze me every day and who I now consider to be my extended family. Through our joys and our sorrows, we are there for one another and it is so because of Christ who strengthens each of us as and as the family of James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council!

We provide substantial amounts yearly in contributions to charities and other worthy causes, as well as conduct programs that support the Church and strengthen our beliefs and Faith as Catholics.

If you are looking for a way to improve your faith and relationship with Christ, and are a Catholic man over the age of 18, come join us! Christ gives us the strength and together as a council, and with Him, we can achieve many great things and change people's lives!

If you are interested in learning more, get in contact with me at: [gk11422kofc2015@gmail.com](mailto:gk11422kofc2015@gmail.com)!

**God Bless,**

**Ike Agbim**  
**GK...**

# Welcome



*First Degree - November 19, 2015*

*Join me in Welcoming To The*  
*James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422*

*Knights of Columbus*  
*Dr. Obelo Akpa*

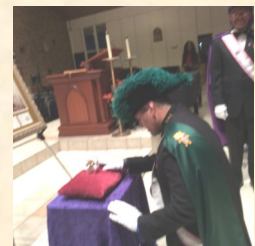


**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**The Home Of**  
**James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422**  
**Knights of Columbus**





## *The Silver Rose Service October 31, 2016*



The Silver Rose Service at our parish was a huge success and very well attended, with about 102 persons, including the Knights and Color Corps members.

We are blessed to have participated in this program, which also strengthens our resolve to work to protect lives of the unborn.

*Aechukwu R. Agbim*  
Grand Knight



*National Black History Month  
Veneration of the Relics of African Saints  
November 13, 2015*



After the service, Sister Marcia Hall of the Oblates Sisters of Providence provided an overview on the progress of the proposed sainthood endeavor for Mother Mary Lange.



## REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

### CHRISTMAS - THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE

Christmas is the single most-significant religious, historical and cultural event in world history. The Son of God assumed our human nature, came into the world, redeemed us from the guilt of our sins, and provided teachings for the way we should lead our lives. Christian beliefs, which formed the thinking and values of America's Founders, were reflected in the Declaration of Independence, in the way the government was organized, and in the nation's laws and ordinances.

As the people were of many different Christian sects, the state and religion were made separate, but complementary. Religion would form the virtue and morality of the people necessary in a republic, while the government protected the right of individuals to choose their form of religious practice and for churches to carry out their mission of worship and evangelization.

As society has evolved, it has been infected with secularism, a religious-like movement to remove all references to God from public display and consideration, and force individuals and organizations to violate their religious beliefs through government coercion. But how far has secularism eroded the religious roots of the nation? Like a canary in a coal mine, the manner in which Christmas is celebrated is a bellwether of secularism's toxicity in American society. The trend in presidential Christmas messages issued annually over the last 75 years is one prominent indicator of the change.

On Christmas Eve, 1941, with America having been plunged into war just days before, Franklin Delano Roosevelt asked: "How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?" He continued, "Looking into the days to come, I... do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come." Three years later, with war still raging, he said: "[W]e will celebrate this Christmas Day in our traditional American way -- because of its deep spiritual meaning to us; because the teachings of Christ are fundamental in our lives."

Harry Truman, in 1949, stated: "*We miss the spirit of Christmas if we consider the Incarnation as an indistinct and doubtful, far-off event unrelated to our present problems. We miss the purport of Christ's birth if we do not accept it as a living link which joins us together in spirit as children of the ever-living and true God.*"

Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1953, spoke of the importance of prayer: "*As religious faith is the foundation of free government, so is prayer an indispensable part of that faith. Tonight, richly endowed in the good things of the earth, in the fellowship of our neighbors and the love of our families, would it not be fitting for each of us to speak in prayer to the Father of all men and women on this earth, of whatever nation, and of every race and creed -- to ask that He help us -- and teach us -- and strengthen us -- and receive our thanks.*"

In 1962, John F. Kennedy noted: "*We mark the festival of Christmas which is the most sacred and hopeful day in our civilization. For nearly 2,000 years the message of Christmas, the message of peace and good will towards all men, has been the guiding star of our endeavors.*"

Jimmy Carter, in 1980, spoke globally: "*Together let us thank God for all the blessings He has given us and ask Him to sustain and strengthen us as individuals and as a nation. Let us also offer our prayers for those who live where there is strife, hunger, persecution, or injustice.*"

Ronald Reagan, in 1981, was more nationalistic: "Tonight, in millions of American homes, the glow of the Christmas tree is a reflection of the love Jesus taught us. Like the shepherds and wise men of that first Christmas, we Americans have always tried to follow a higher light, a star, if you will...At times our footsteps may have faltered, but trusting in God's help, we've never lost our way."

George W.H. Bush, in 1990, proclaimed: "*[O]ur Savior's... Incarnation radically altered the course of human history by challenging men and women to live according to the will of our just and merciful Father in Heaven. Today, Christ's message of hope and redemption -- first delivered on that holy night in the City of David -- continues to bring peace and joy to millions of people around the world.*"

Bill Clinton, in 1995, noted that on Christmas, "*we share special gifts with those we love, just as God shared His Son with us. And, in contemplating the nativity scene under the tree or in a neighbor's yard, we realize that children hold a special place in God's heart, since He sent His only Son to us as a little Child.*"

George W. Bush, in 2005, said: "*More than 2,000 years ago, a virgin gave birth to a Son, and the God of heaven came to Earth... Each Christmas, we celebrate that first coming anew, and we rejoice in the knowledge that the God who came to Earth that night in Bethlehem is with us still and will remain with us forever.*"

Barack Obama has focused his annual proclamations more on our relationship with other people than with God, stating, in 2014, that the meaning of Christmas is "*to love our neighbors as ourselves. To be one another's keepers. To have faith in one another, and in something better around the bend.*"

The changes in the tenor of these presidential messages indicate a movement from the religious to the secular. They initially focused on divine aspects of Christmas and the need for God's blessings. As time progressed, they combined the spiritual with statements of concern for others, while the most recent have omitted the sublime.

The societal toxicity of secularism is increasing, but not yet lethal. We must reinvigorate the Christian roots of the nation, and bring God back into public consciousness. The future course of this nation rests within the heart and will of each one of us. If we truly want a nation in which Christianity is respected and free, we must lead our lives according to Christian principles. Let us begin by celebrating Christmas as a religious event. As T.S. Eliot wrote, as long as the collective temperament of the people remains Christian and the nation's leaders continue to pursue the interests of the country within a Christian framework, the nation may still be considered a Christian nation. **Merry Christmas!**



# FLETCHER COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY



***DECEMBER 17, 2015***  
***7 P.M.***

*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***

*Alan Davis*  
*Deputy Grand Knight*  
*adavis1960@verizon.net*  
*301-808-8009*





# Smiley Central™

*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!*



## James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 Council Officers

2015 - 2016

Chaplain  
Associate Chaplain  
Associate Chaplain  
Grand Knight.  
Deputy Grand knight  
Chancellor.  
Warden.  
Financial Secretary  
Recorder.  
Treasurer  
Lecturer.  
Advocate  
Trustee 3 year.  
Trustee 2 year.  
Trustee 1 year.  
Inside Guard.  
Outside Guard.  
Convention Delegate  
First Alternate  
Second Alternate

Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.  
Deacon Alton Davis, Jr.  
Deacon A. Douglas Turner  
Ikechukwu R. Agbim  
Alan M. Davis  
J. Bernard Broadus  
Errol Sanderson  
Robert B. Sistare  
John O. Grier  
Harold F. Sanders, Jr.  
Michael P. Akpan  
Christopher U. Aguocha  
Thomas F. Matthews, PGK  
John W. Huntley, PGK  
G. Emeka Onwezi, PGK  
Arthur C. Osuorah  
Mervyn Chancellor  
Ikechukwu R. Agbim



## *It Is Not To Early To Say “Mardi Gras”*



## **FEATURING “THE EXCLUSIVES”**

**Menu**  
Creole Seafood Gumbo  
w/Rice Marinated Herb Baked  
Chicken Leg (quarters)  
BBQ Meat Balls  
Southern Style Potato Salad  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Roll & Butter  
Funch, Cake  
Louisiana Coffee  
“Open Bar”

**Date:** Saturday, February 6, 2016  
**Time:** 7pm ‘til Midnight  
**Where:** St. Joseph’s Rosemont Room  
2020 St. Joseph’s Drive  
Largo, MD 20774

Mask Optional  
Or  
Semi-formal



*“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 11422  
Knights of Columbus*





**“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”**  
**\*\*DECEMBER\*\***  
**- 2015 -**

- 01 Anthony McIntyre
- 04 Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
- 05 Gerry Anderson
- 07 Phil Beauboeuf
- 08 Chino Osondu-Anyanwu
- 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
- 26 Giles Bragg
- 26 Martin U. Onwu
- 28 Innocent U. Nwaopara



**“The Joy  
 Of A  
 December  
 Birthday”**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**\*\*DECEMBER\*\***



- 03 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 08 The Immaculate Conception
- 16 McNamara Chapter Meeting-**Christmas Party**  
Fr. Kidd Council, Mitchellville, MD
- 17 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM-**Christmas Party**
- 18 State-**Christmas Party**
- 20 Knights Sunday, 11:00 PM Mass
- 22 Winter Begins
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 **Christmas**
- 31 New Year’s Eve

**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 Patroness of the Americas.”

*Please, Remember In Your Prayers*

Members Who Are Ill



- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Howard Wynn     | James Shorter   |
| Mary Julius     | Hugo Braden     |
| Joseph Marshall | William Tolbert |
| Ken Hinton      | Donald Wilson   |