



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 23 Issue 6

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

December 2017

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL NO. 11422
HOME OF McNAMARA CHAPTER PRESIDENT VERNON HAWKINS, DISTRICT DEPUTY G. EMEKA ONWEZI,
FORMER DISTRICT DEPUTY MICHAEL P. DAVENPORT, VERNON HAWKINS, JR.,
DAVID D. MARTIN & CARLTON L. WILLIAMS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



A Christmas Prayer, by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

[Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)]

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

The first Christmas gift was also the best—a Savior. Through Jesus' birth and death and resurrection, He reconciled God and man. We no longer have to stagger under the burden of guilt and shame. Our hearts can be clear, because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. We can be forgiven if we repent and believe in Him.

God's love overcomes hatred and evil, and enables us to love one another. His kindness to us inspires us to be kind to one another. When we are grateful for His forgiveness, we are moved to forgive others. This spirit of love and kindness and forgiveness lasts not only for the Christmas season, but all life long for those who have accepted God's gift.

This year as you give gifts to others, remember God's greatest gift of all—Jesus. His love allows us to "share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men."



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KNIGHTLIFE



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Chaplain Thoughts. . .

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

by Bishop 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 shame; 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.”



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!



*** SIR KNIGHT ***

THE HONORABLE JUDGE

WILLIAM D. MISSOURI

September 4, 1940 - November 21, 2017



Your Grand Knight For The 2017 - 2018 Fraternal Year

"Trust in the Lord with all thy Heart."

J. Bernard Broadus



-“For when I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcome me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me,” (Matt 25: 35-37)

Brothers of James C. Fletcher Jr. Council 11422, it warms my heart and yours should be on fire also, when I think of how blessed we are to be members of this great council doing God’s work. When I read the verses from the Gospel of Matthew, I was compelled to think of how Fletcher Council strives to answer God’s call.

We have Fletcher Council members delivering bread to shelters, homeless and the poor. I was thrill to see the donations of food and water this past week for the islands devastated by Hurricane Maria. The council is donating 24 brand new coats to needy children in our community. There were Brothers donating Boxes of Joy for children around the world who may not have a Christmas. We have members taking our Lord to the sick and brothers working with prison ministries. Praise the Lord!

And I believe we are just getting starting. Let us keep that same spirit of charity for one another as we go into Advent and Christmas seasons. Remember that Jesus is the reason for every season! And finally as Deacon Stephen Nash said to us in his homily, *“how are you using your God given talents daily for the good of others”?*

You ever wish you could have Christmas Day over and over again? Not the presents, but the Christmas Spirit some of us get to feel on that special day. You know, the joyous spirit , the sharing spirit, the spirit of giving, the caring spirit and the spirit of love. Isn’t that a wonderful feeling! I’m wishing, no praying that everyone has the Christmas Spirit everyday!

May our Lord continue to bless our council and every one of you.

From My Family To Your Family



*Merry Christmas
Brother Knights
And A*



Happy New Year!



We Wish You A Merry Christmas, We Wish You A Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!



District Deputy's Report

State Deputy's Report



G. Emeka Onwezi
District Deputy

My family and I wish all of you a merry Christmas and happy new Year. As we enter into the festivity mode, please remember the unfortunate, the needy and those that are sick. The spirit of giving is alive. No matter how small, you will make a lot of difference in someone's else life who is in need.

We continue to ask your council to help us grow our order, by holding one admission degree per month or bringing in at least one new brother night per month. It is a duty we own to ourselves and to our Order, to ask that Catholic gentleman, who is at least 18

years old to join our ranks.

Please do not forget the Christians who are being prosecuted in Iraqi and in and around the world. We have a program where we are building houses in a town in Iraqi. If you are interested in this charitable endeavor, please make out your check payable to King of Columbus Charities and note on the memo line "Donation for town in Iraqi". All checks must be sent to the State Council office.

It is very important that both the current Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight attend the mid term meeting, along with their spouses. A lot of things will be discussed at this meeting.

The Maryland State Council's State Deputy has extended a special thank you to all who worked on the box of joy program. It is our first year doing this program and it was an outstanding one. Kudos to all.

Please do not forget to be part of the Maryland State Council's Alaska Trip. As you may know, this trip is to benefit the scholarship fun. More information is available in the Maryland State Council's website.

Do not forget that the \$4.50 rebate will happen again this fraternal year for all those making star council. You still have time to meet up with your membership and insurance quota, along with successful completion of Domestic Church Program in four areas of our activity programs.

The domestic church program is alive and well. More information about the program will be discussed at the midterm meeting.

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH PROGRAM IS ALIVE AND WELL AND WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MID TERM MEETING – AGAIN PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA WILL BE NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR THE COLUMBIAN AWARD

Remember, **WE ARE ADVOCATES OF THE LORD – IN EVERYTHING WE DO IN MARYLAND.**

Vivat Jesus.



Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

I know that I say every month that it has been a very busy month. Well, November was no different and that is because we are a very active jurisdiction. We are involved in every aspect of our principles - Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Being part of these activities gives you the feeling of what it is to be a Knight.

Maryland is continuing to do well in the area of membership. Thanks to all the Councils that conducted their Church Drives and reported the outcomes. These

are some fantastic numbers and now we need to close the deal. We need to get the Form 100s and then the Admission Degree and send the forms in. Please continue to recruit, continue to hold one Admission Degree per month and continue to strive for STAR Council.

Speaking recruiting - Did you know that the average age of a Knight in Maryland is 59.81. We are old. We need to recruit younger members. I am speaking about members between the ages of 18 and 30. Many will say, they don't want to be part of us. I will say that they do if we sell it correctly. By selling I mean explaining. We need to do a couple of things: begin to recruit on the premise of we are looking for one hour a month from you. Let the new member pick what projects they would like to be a part of. The second is that many younger members are looking for the Spiritual Side. We need to incorporate the Domestic Church Programs I have said many times, bringing these programs to the parish will bring the members to us.

I hope that everyone had a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Now we begin to prepare for Christmas. Let us keep Charity in the forefront. We have been involved in some major charitable programs just in the last month. Coats for Kids across the State has put warm coats on about 2,000 kids this year. Donations to the Apostleship of the Sea for the stranded ships and crews have been an outstanding program. We need to begin the introduction of the Breach series into all of our councils and utilize the discussion groups. Again. Clothes for the Homeless at the Assisi House have also come in fast and furious. Keep up the **GREAT** work.

From both Vicki and myself, Very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year to you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!

Have You Visited The State Website Lately
www.kofc-md.org
Or the Maryland State Yahoo Group
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MDstatecouncil/info?yguid=46983702>



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT'S

The Gospel of Life

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight



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 for scientific research. Those embryos that society d 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 today willingly destroys are no less fully human than was Jesus on the day of the Visitation.

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

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 43rd *Annual March for Life* on January 27, 2017. And as we take this historic step to advance firm hope of the one who heard from the lips of an angel that *"nothing is impossible to God."* the pro-life cause, let us do so with the same





FRATERNAL BENEFITS

David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

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202-494-6527

What Happens if You Live? 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 in 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 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. Seventy percent of individuals over the age of 65 will need some type of long-term care service 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 three years, at a national annual cost of \$86,700 for nursing home care and \$60,000 for at-home nursing care.

Traditional and government medical insurance programs usually don't provide much help. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, Medicare only pays long-term care services for a maximum of 100 days, and that's 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 that provided by Medicare.*

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 and specify whether you want to be covered for care in an assisted-living facility or at home. You may also elect to purchase a Compound Inflation Rider, which will increase your maximum lifetime benefit by 3 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 today to help ensure that your family and 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.

Long-Term Care insurance contracts contain certain exclusions, limitations and other terms. Your contract and licensed Knights of Columbus field agent can provide you with complete details. The Knights of Columbus reserves the right to ask questions about your health and review your medical records. Benefits are subject to underwriting. Premiums may increase.

* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Clearinghouse for LTC Information.

BREAKING NEWS ALERT

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER:

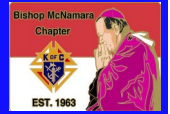
Past Grand Knight Alan Davis and Dr. Robin Saunders announced their engagement last month. It is no rumor, for it was confirmed through a second source. Our residence paparazzi caught up with the lovely lady prior to Mass on Knights Sunday. There, with happy smiles, she displayed on her ring finger her beautiful engagement ring. Stay tuned, they are currently, happily "negotiating" a wedding date. *Congratulations!*





McNAMARA CHAPTER OF GRAND KNIGHTS

Vernon Hawkins, Jr. - Chapter President - vhawkinsjr@aol.com - 301-336-0284



It Is Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas Ev'ry Where You Go



Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights

Join us for our Annual

Christmas Party

December 13, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council No. 14455

Holy Family Church, Parish Hall

12010 Woodmore Road

Mitchellville, Maryland 20721

Holiday Dress

Hors d'oeuvres – Cheese & Fruit

Beef Brisket, Mashed Potatoes, Green Salad

Dinner Rolls & Cookies / Brownies

Ice Tea/Lemonade/Wine

\$25.00 Per Person – Ladies Are Invited

"Bring A Gift, \$15.00 Minimum, For Swapping During The Secret Santa Exchange"

Advanced Reservations and Payment at the Door Accepted

RSVP BY DECEMBER 6 TO

Vice President Joe Massimini

4409 Holmhurst Way West

Bowie, MD 20720

joemassi@comcast.com - 240-997-0402



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Michael P. Davenport - Faithful Navigator

Brother Knights,



Membership is key and the clock is ticking. We have completed our first Exemplification for this year. We will have another Exemplification in April. The time to start recruiting is now. Our goal is 192 for the year. I will be visiting all of the Walsh Assembly councils in the near future. We need to get people for the next Exemplification. There are men in this Council who are ready to take the Patriotic Degree. The next exemplification will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. The dates under consideration are April 7th and April 28th.

There will be a Ladies Activity at this event and there will be an antechamber. Luncheon will be in their dining hall. Start recruiting now. The Assembly and the District are involved and will come out and visit with you. Our mission in the fourth degree is patriotism! We still have very important work to do supporting our active military, our veterans and first responders. The Fourth Degree is involved with visiting our veterans in VA hospitals and homes. We take them to picnics, movies, fishing trips and other outings.

There were 56 candidates that took their exemplification and 47 of them were from our district/local Councils. Form 4s for the next Exemplification will be accepted two weeks prior to the Exemplification. The Bishop James E Walsh Assembly 1548 has a new member goal of 19. We need to accomplish that goal and beef up our assembly number. Please track all 3rd degree members as candidates for the Fourth Degree this Spring.

Upcoming events include the dedication of the dome in the Basilica on December 8th, the Christmas Party which will be Dec 21st in conjunction with Fletcher council.

Renewal of Obligations will be on February 12th, The Master provided a reminder the dress code for Renewal of Obligations is a tuxedo or a new uniform with a Baldric for all officers and a dark suit for members. Please keep up your good work and remember to attend the Assembly meetings.



*We Salute You And
Wish You A Merry Christmas*

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net 301-980-6779



Council Self-Check-Time! Has the council met all of its goals and objectives thus far this year? **No**, we have not, but we have made some significant strives to do so. The following are some of the council's many accomplishments through December 1, 2017.

The Council's installation choreographed by Dave Martin was outstanding and another proud moment in time for the council and for me to have been elected and installed as the Deputy Grand Knight was indeed an honor. The Annual Flea Market coordinated by Harold Sanders and Alan Davis was another successful venture. How about that Scholarship Program sponsored by the James C. Fletcher Charity? It is always a wonderful program and their presentations during the Mass is very touching. I look forward to the monthly Knights Sunday Mass and how gratifying it is to have so many of the brothers in attendance. Were able to attend the Our Lady of Guadalupe and Silver Rose prayer service. Visions of the awesome portrait of Our Lady and the beautiful Silver Rose still linger in my mind. We are still reaching out to our youth, including through the Squires Circle and various youth program conduct by brother Phil Beauboeuf, such as the Talent Show, the mask up for fun Halloween Party. That's just a sample of our events.

Sadly, we loss two of our brothers this fraternal year: Past Grand Knight Kenneth P. Hinton and Charter member The Honorable Judge William "Bill" Missouri. Please keep these brothers and all of the faithfully departed in your prayers.

I am very proud of the council's accomplishments thus far this year. However, there is so much more that we could have done and need to do. Our major short fall has been manpower. We have a few very capable and dedicated brothers trying to support all of our activities. **Please give some thought to volunteering an hour or two of your time in the coming months to helping us to do the things that Knights do, providing help and assistance to others.**

"Wishing You A Happy & Blessed Christmas"



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Chidubem M. Oparaoji, Activities Director
cmatriot@gmail.com

202-802-8155



St. Joseph Catholic Church Celebrates Its 95th Anniversary



L/R: Deacon Steven Nash, Fr. Raymond H. Moore, Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.,
Reverends Peter Sweeney, Michael J. King, Robert P. Boxie, III, and
Deacon Al Douglas Turner

On Thursday, November 30th, St. Joseph Catholic Church at an evening Mass celebrated its 95th Anniversary. Members of Fletcher Council, James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 and a host of parishioners were in attendance. However, the essence of the Mass was Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., accompanied by priests who were former pastors at St. Joseph (Fathers Sweeney, Michael King and Raymond Moore), Parochial Vicar Robert P. Boxie, III; and Deacons Al Douglas Turner and Steven Nash. Bishop Campbell introduce each of his colleges and during his homily, he provided a brief history of the church. Each of his fellow priest spoke eloquently of their tenure at St. Joseph, bringing back fond memories for many of those in the congregation. We were able to meet, greet and exchange stories with our honored guest at the reception that followed the Mass in the Rosemont Room. **Happy 95th Anniversary St. Joseph.**

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 our-selves 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.

Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

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





COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director


calthompsn@msn.com

301-249-2955



Brother Knights, tickets for our Annual Mardi Gras on February 10, 2018 went on sale in October. They are being snapped up at a record pace. There were 150 tickets initially available, within minutes after they went on sale, 68 were sold. Therefore, if you have plans to attend, I urge you to **NOT** procrastinate, but to purchase/reserve Your ticket(s) **NOW**. See the flyer below and get your order in.

MARDI GRAS




FEATURING
"THE EXCLUSIVES"



Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018
Time: 7pm 'til Midnight
Where: St. Joseph's Rosemont Room
 2020 St. Joseph's Drive
 Largo, MD 20774
 (301) 773-4838



Menu

- Seafood Gumbo w/Rice
- Chicken Gumbo w/Rice
- Baked Chicken
- Meatballs
- Potato Salad
- Rice Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Rolls/Butter
- Cake
- Punch/Ice Tea
- Bottled Water
- "Open Bar"

Mask Optional
Or
Semiformal



"A Truly New Orleans Gala - Traditional Mardi Gras - Superb Music & Entertainment"
ADMISSION ONLY \$45.00 PER PERSON

For Tickets Call/Email
Vernon Hawkins - 301-336-0284 - vhawkinsjr@aol.com
Cal Thompson - 301-928-2157 - calthompsn@msn.com
Sponsored By The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422
Knights of Columbus



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director

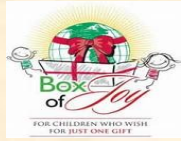
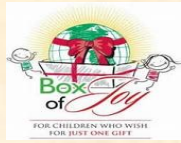
mrwhy@verizon.net

301-980-6779



Thank you again for a job well done to Brother Knight **Ruthven John Blake**. Through his hero leadership, this year's Box of Joy program was a magnificent success. For a little over a month John manned his station in St. Joseph Church foyer passing out cartons and urging parishioners to participate in the Box of Joy program, a charity program sponsored by the Cross Catholic Outreach organization to help "the poorest of the poor." Parishioners were requested to take a carton, fill it with gifts for young child, boy or girl, and return it for shipment to the Cross Catholic Outreach organization for shipment. Nearly 100 cartons were distributed to our St. Joseph families and 85 fully packed boxes were returned by the due date, November 22nd. After each Mass on that weekend, John took to the ambo to thank the parishioners for their support and participation in the Box of Joy program.

FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH
FOR **JUST ONE GIFT**





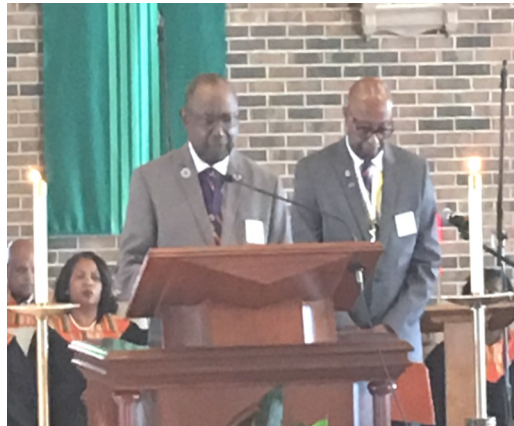
FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director

canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426

The Fletcher Council's Family of the Month (FOM) program has become a recurring feature each month at the 11 o'clock Mass, each third Sunday. It is also called Knight Sunday and/or Community Sunday. It is a time when council members come together and pray together. During the Mass, council members man all liturgical positions requiring lay personnel support, i.e: Hospitality Ministry, Eucharistic Ministers of the Holy Communion (EMHC), Lectors, etc. Families selected as the FOM are recognized during the Mass, after the Homily, at which time Grand Knight Bernard Broadus approaches the ambo to announce the recipient family and provide a brief description of the family was selected. The November FOM included the recognition of two families, Karen Marshall for October and George & Irma Torney for November.



GK Bernard Broadus & the Family of the Month Activities Director Efrain Anderson.



*October 2017 FOM
Karen Marshall*



*November 2017 FOM
George & Irma Torney*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**



Baby Bottle Fundraiser



Knights of Columbus
James C. Fletcher Council #11422

IS ONCE AGAIN SPONSORING THE ANNUAL FORESTVILLE PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER.

**IT WILL BE HELD DURING THE MONTH OF
December 2017.**

**THE BOTTLES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED (TO ADULTS ONLY) AFTER EACH MASS THE WEEK OF December 2 -3 .
BOTTLES MAY BE FILLED WITH CHANGE (PAPER MONEY OR CHECKS) AND RETURN ALL BOTTLES THE 4TH WEEKEND OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 23-24.**

ALL OF THE BOTTLES SHOULD BE RETURNED WHETHER THEY ARE FULL, HALF FULL OR EMPTY.

THE FORESTVILLE PREGNANCY CENTER IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOSEPH FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

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As the pro-life movement slowly continues to gain momentum, we continue to need to make it clear that pro-life issues are important and cannot be ignored. The largest human rights march in history takes place on the Washington Mall every January - the National March for Life. We need to continue our increased emphasis and participation from the Maryland State Family. Let's once again show the rest of our country that we in Maryland support the preborn, and that we are in solidarity with our bishops. The upcoming 45th March for Life will be Friday, January 19, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. More details to come later. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO PARTICIPATE.**

Are you coming to the 2018 National March for Life?



Everyone else will be there!

March with the Maryland Knights of Columbus:

- **Friday, January 19, 2018**
- **Meet at 14th St. and Madison Dr., NW (on the Mall) between 10:45 and 11:15 AM. (Nearest Metro stations: FEDERAL TRIANGLE or SMITHSONIAN)**
- **Look for brother Maryland Knights and the Maryland Knights of Columbus banner.**
- **At 11:15, we will move to the staging area to watch the program.**

**STAND UP FOR THE UNBORN
COME TO THE MARCH
BE PRO-LIFE**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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

240-353-1460

Fletcher Council Plans To Field A Team For The Annual Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest



Before you know it, Christmas will be here and the **“Keep Christ In Christmas”** poster contest will be over, council inputs are due December 15th. 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. The **“Keep Christ In Christmas”** was once a very prominent Fletcher Council Christmas season program at St. Joseph Church. Suggest we revisit this program.

Coming up in the January/February 2018 timeframe is the Annual Maryland State Free Throw Contest. Fletcher Council will be fielding a team this year, consisting of boys and girls ages 9 to 14. There are three levels to the Free Throw Contest: 1) Council, 2) District and 3) State. I encourage you to include on your gift list for your boy/girl a basketball. They will then be able to get in some practice time before the start of the contest. If you or they should need some assistance in the fundamentals, please let me know. The council has several previous near-NBA pros amongst its membership. I anticipate announcements of dates, time and locations of the Fletcher Council Free Throw Contest by early January. I look forward to having your son or daughter on the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Free Throw Team. **Practice / Practice.**

Think / THINK: “A Basketball For Christmas”



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Reclaiming Christmas

Two thousand years ago, Rome was the center of the civilized world – economically, commercially, socially, militarily. Its material greatness, however, was accompanied by moral depravity. Prostitution, pornography, homosexuality, same-sex unions, suicide, and other lustful perversions were accepted.

Does not the permissiveness of that ancient culture appear familiar? As we in America – and indeed the West -- strive for material greatness, are we not recreating a pagan moral climate?

The Roman world changed, however. On a day now known as Christmas, the *“Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”* God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, the Second Person of God assumed a fully human nature, with all of the joys and agonies, trials and tribulations, thoughts and emotions, sufferings and death that are innate to man.

Through His teachings and the Church He left behind, a new era began for the human race. His doctrines elevated women to equality with men, asserted the role of charity and social justice, showed the debasement and immorality of slavery, established the sanctity and indissolubility of marriage, and raised the status of the family and children. The recognition of Christ’s birth with its profound implications, became a special event for His followers.

Ever since the first settlers landed in America, Christmas has been celebrated in this land. But now, with declining religious beliefs among the populace, for many Christmas has been replaced with a secular, commercial holiday, preceded by a month-long marketing blitz focused on an inordinate amount of buying and gift-giving. Today, this Christian observance is not only being deemphasized, but God Himself is being expunged from public recognition.

Nativity scenes are banned from government property; Christmas programs and traditional carols are forbidden in public schools; the greeting “Merry Christmas” is replaced with “Happy Holidays”; shopping malls are decorated with winter scenes, sleighs, trees, bells, birds, Santa Clauses, and anything other than a reminder of what occurred 2000 years ago; and there are recent efforts to place satanic displays next to crèches. The same Christ Child who could find no place in the public inn in Bethlehem is now being proscribed from receiving public acknowledgement in America.

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 are rooted in Christian doctrine: the protection of the unborn, the sanctity of life at all stages, the inviolability of tradition marriage, the ability to live one’s religious beliefs in the public square. There can be no further restrictions without a total suppression of Catholic identity, a loss of religious freedom, a denigration of societal mores based on virtue and morality, and a weakened ability to develop the faith among the young.

In spite of the moral darkness of our time, things can change. But it will take a concerted effort by all Christians, Catholics included, to live their faith in public. They must create a counter-cultural movement, and it can start by taking back Christmas and once again publically celebrating the birth of Our Savior.

Pope Pius X, at the beginning of the 20th century, said: “The greatest obstacle to the apostolate of the Church is the timidity or rather the cowardice of the faithful.” As harsh and as true as that observation has been, Christians today must be forthright in expressing their faith. They no longer can be hesitant to confront the secular forces that are removing God from the culture. They must express their religious beliefs and publically celebrate their traditions.

A new liturgical year begins on December 3, with Advent, the prelude to Christmas. This period of preparation, penitence and expectant waiting for the coming of the Lord, can be a period of moral strengthening. It is an opportunity to reflect on why God chose to become man and its implications for our lives. 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 taught us the way and gave us the means – grace, the Eucharist, his Church – to attain that salvation.

In the days ahead, as a sign of gratitude and fidelity to our Lord, make a public statement about Christmas. There are innumerable ways to do so, limited only by your imagination. Display a crèche in your yard as well as your home, send religious greeting cards, use stamps displaying the Madonna and Child, promote traditional songs that praise God, join a neighborhood caroling group, set up an Advent wreath, include religiously-themed ornaments on your Christmas tree, visit the Nativity scene in your church, take a card from a church’s “giving tree” and return a gift for a needy child, include religiously-themed ornaments on your Christmas tree, and tell your children or grandchildren the story of Christ’s birth.

As you prepare for Christmas, do not neglect the most important step -- strengthen yourself spiritually. Say the Rosary, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, go to Confession, meditate on the liturgical readings, so that when you go to Mass on Christmas Day, you can be truly joyous about the arrival of our Lord.

Do not stop these activities on December 25. Continue them at least until the Epiphany -- Feast of the Three Kings, *Little Christmas* -- which will be celebrated on January 7. Then, throughout the year, pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, which recount the life of Our Lord. Every time we recite the Hail Mary, we say, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,” the words the Archangel Gabriel used to invite Mary to become the mother of God. Reflect on when these words were first said and of the birth that followed.

If we live everyday as a preparation for Christ’s coming, the results will be profound. If we do, the world *will* be a different place.

May you and your family have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!



FLETCHER COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY



**DECEMBER 21, 2017
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**

**Bernard Broadus
Grand Knight
bbroadus53@gmail.com
301-262-2350**

" POT LUCK "
**BRING YOUR
FAVORITE DISH
TO SHARE**

" POT LUCK "
**BRING YOUR
FAVORITE DISH
TO SHARE**



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!*



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."





- 01 Anthony McIntyre
- 04 Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
- 04 Godwin Ikechukwu
- 05 Gerry Anderson
- 07 Phil Beauboeuf
- 08 Chino Osondu-Anyanwu
- 12 Michael Atabongakeng
- 12 Emmanuel Ogbuaku
- 15 Eugene Poole
- 16 Garland Green
- 16 Ernest S. Bechet
- 17 Marcel Desroches, Jr.
- 17 Damian C. Okonkwo
- 18 Brian Graham
- 23 Gilbert Allende
- 23 Lorenzo Hylton
- 23 Ikechukwu M. Ezekwu
- 25 Christian U. Aguocha
- 25 James A. Gant
- 26 Martin U. Onwu
- 28 Innocent U. Nwaopara



*“The Joy
Of A
December
Birthday”*

Maryland State Council Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| State Deputy | Stephen Cohen |
| McNamara Chapter President | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| District Deputy | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| District Warden | Michael P. Akpan |

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chaplain | Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr. |
| Assistant to the Chaplain | Deacon Al Douglas Turner |
| Assistant to the Chaplain | Deacon Steven Nash |
| Grand Knight. | J. Bernard Broadus |
| Deputy Grand knight | Michael Younger |
| Chancellor. | Fidelis K. Ajudua |
| Warden. | Robert Sistare |
| Financial Secretary | John O. Grier |
| Recorder. | Efrain Anderson |
| Treasurer | Harold F. Sanders, Jr. |
| Lecturer. | Calvin A. Thompson |
| Advocate | David D. Martin |
| Trustee 3 year | Alan M. Davis |
| Trustee 2 year. | Ikechukwu R. Agbimi |
| Trustee 1 year. | Thomas F. Matthews, III |
| Trustee 1 year. | John W. Huntley |
| Inside Guard. | Charles N. Okpah |
| Outside Guard. | Gilbert Neblett |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



****D E C E M B E R****

- 07 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 08 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 McNamara Chapter Christmas Party, Holy Family Church
- 17 *Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass*
- 21 Fletcher Council Christmas Party, 7:00 PM
- First Day of Winter
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 **Christmas Day**
- 31 New Year's Eve



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*