



# Council Matters



Saint Jude Council 6551

Spring 2009 Newsletter

## Welcome Brother Knights

We had a busy first half of the Columbian year and we're off to a good start in calendar 2009. In this edition of the newsletter you'll read about the results of our Breakfast With Santa fundraiser, the Free Throw Contest and updates on Roses for Baptism and the Michael P. Flanigan Memorial Scholarship.

Like all organizations, the more members we have, the more we can do. Suggestions are always welcomed... along with a willingness to help see the projects through. Our meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday's at St. Andrew's parish hall at 8:00 PM.

### Upcoming Activities

- Membership Blitz
- Soup For Lent
- Easter Basket Raffle

- Special Olympics New Jersey
- The awarding of the Alex Beden Memorial Scholarship at Eastern High School in June
- The awarding of the Michael P. Flanigan Memorial Scholarship

If you received this letter by mail, I don't have your email address. To save on postage and to keep you updated in a more timely fashion, please send your email address to me at [gjstrain96@aol.com](mailto:gjstrain96@aol.com).

Fraternally,

Gary Strain (856-489-6455)

## Council Activities

**Breakfast With Santa** - Our annual Breakfast with Santa was held on December 7<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30AM and 10:00AM Masses at St. Andrew the Apostle. This year's breakfast was another success. While the economic climate was a concern we served a record number of parishioners. Thanks to Joe Turt, who supplied the donut holes at a reduced cost, the Summerville Senior Living for providing all of the drinks, Lance Beden for taking the pictures with Santa and to all of you who volunteered your time.

**Free Throw Contest** - We partnered with Arch Angel Council #7429 to sponsor this year's contest at Our lady of Mt. Carmel School on February 14<sup>th</sup>. While participation was down a bit due to the President's weekend vacation, we had 23 participants and sent our winners on to the regional finals. The contest ran smoothly due to the good turn out by Knights from both Councils. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time. Next year we will begin a new tradition by holding our contest at St. Andrew's.

**Roses for Baptism** - Osvaldo Agrait-Ruiz leads the Roses for Baptism program established by Lance Beden last year. Osvaldo has presented roses to 20 mothers of children baptized at St. Andrew's since the beginning of December. The moms continue to be both surprised and thankful for this kind gesture. Thanks to Osvaldo for his work with this program.

**New Scholarship Program** - Contributions to our Council in memory of Michael Flanigan continue to arrive. Those donations will be used to fund a \$250 memorial scholarship in his name to be awarded this spring to a graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Grade student from the St. Andrew the Apostle parish. We will open begin to advertise in the church bulletin for applicants to submit essays beginning in early April.

## Upcoming Events

**Membership Blitz** – We will hold our spring membership blitz on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to man our table after all masses. Please contact Gary Strain to volunteer for one mass during that weekend. Thanks to all of you who have already volunteered your time. If you cannot attend the blitz, you can help us by identifying a friend or neighbor who you think might be a good candidate to join the Knights.

**Soup For Lent** – Working with Sister Alma once again this year the Knights have volunteered to provide refreshments after the Friday night Stations of the Cross during Lent. Gil Scutti reported that there was a big turn out for the first Friday and everyone enjoyed the soup, cheese and crackers after Stations. We have a number of weeks covered but we still need coverage for a few weeks. Please contact Gary Strain to volunteer.

**Easter Basket Raffle** – To help raise funds to support our charitable works we are holding an Easter basket raffle this spring. Joe Turt has arranged for the basket to be donated by Giambri's Candy of Clementon, NJ. Included in this mailing are five \$2 tickets that we're asking you to sell to support the raffle. Please bring the completed tickets stubs and the money you collect to a meeting or mail them to Gary Strain at 2 Whyte Court Voorhees, NJ 08043 no later than Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>. We'll select the winner that night and arrange for the basket to be delivered before Easter Sunday. Thanks in advance for your support.

**Special Olympics New Jersey** - We have made contact with Amy Simmons, Volunteer Manager for Special Olympics New Jersey. She has provided us with a list of activities that we can volunteer for as a group or individually. We hope to get a group together this spring to volunteer for an upcoming aquatics event and for the statewide track meet at the College of New Jersey in early June.

## From the Financial Secretary

Dues paid by Council members help underwrite our charitable activities, as well as our activities in support of the Church and the youth of the Parish.

If you haven't received your dues statement it should be arriving in the mail shortly. You can pay your dues at any of our meetings or you can mail them to me. Upon receipt of your dues your membership card will be mailed to you.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that we are assessed each year by Supreme Council and the NJ State Council to help underwrite their charitable activities. We are required to remit for each member on our roster regardless of whether that member has paid his dues. Therefore, when a member does not pay his dues, he reduces the amount of money

available to the Council for charitable acts. Some members have not paid their dues in a number of years. As a result we will be sending letters to those members that are significantly in arrears offering them an opportunity to withdraw from our Council and the Knights of Columbus.

Please remember if you are experiencing financial difficulties that prevent you from paying what you owe in past or future dues, please contact me.

God Bless,

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