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This month meeting will be a Social with spouse on TUESDAY, 12/9



Saint Charles
Knights of Columbus
UNITAS



December 2014 - Volume 15 - Issue 12

Fred's Findings



Greetings Brother <<First Name>>,

THERE IS NO FORMAL BUSINESS MEETING IN DECEMBER AS OUR COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE ON TUESDAY DEC. 9TH AT STJN STARTING AT 6:30PM SINCE MONDAY DEC. 8TH IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. SPOUSES AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO PASS. BEER, WINE, POP AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED. YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN ADULT BEVERAGE.

I am friends with BK Dan McSweeney on Facebook. He recently posted a film trailer for a Spring 2015 movie called "God's Not Dead." While watching the trailer, one of the actors in the film asked, "If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Wow, does that make you think! Hopefully, you can self-examine your priorities to critically determine if you spend enough time being a Christian. When our mortal lives come to an end, we know we will have to give an accounting of ourselves before the Lord. If only we knew the day, time and place, then we could really be ready. But we know from the readings this past Sunday that is not how it works. **Therefore, what are you doing daily to know the Lord, love him and serve him?**

At the start of 2015, many of us will make New Years Resolutions for ourselves, like more exercise, lose weight, etc... You are reading this commentary in Unitas because you are a Brother Knight in the Knights of Columbus Council 12497. Allow me to re-ask the question in the previous paragraph a different way, "If you were accused of being a Knight in the K of C 12497, would there be enough evidence to convict you? **As an active member in our Council, you serve the Lord!** We serve the Lord by organizing events such as our annual 5K, which will now allow us to donate more money to Special Olympics and Hope for Haitians. We all know what these organizations do. I'd like to think the Lord would be pleased with this 5K event and our eventual stewardship of these funds. This is just one example of many events we host. I think approx 8 organizations will receive checks from Tootsie Rolls.

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Upcoming Events

December, 2014

12/08 NO COUNCIL MEETING

12/09 (Tues) - Christmas Party - SJN

12/14 Breakfast with Santa-SPCR

12/14 It's a Wonderful Life 4:30 - SPCR

This is serving the Lord. In 2015, please make a resolution to be more active in our Council. If this sounds great but you don't know where to start, please contact me directly, my contact info is at the end of this GK report. We will find an opening for you to jump back in.

On Sat Nov. 22nd for Pies by the Guys, our Council and numerous volunteers helped make 1830 pies! It is priceless for me watching this assembly line production and people throwing dough at Fred Dresser when he is late delivering another batch of apples. As long as I have been in the Council, this has been a very well attended event. Maybe it is the sense of accomplishment in making so many pies in such a short amount of time for such a unique event. We are in the calendar for 2015; however, at the request of Michelle (our pie vendor), we have been moved up 2 weeks.

For the last two months, we have helped promote a family program from Supreme, Building the Domestic Church. The theme for December is *"Because the family that prays together stays together, we want to learn to pray as a family."* The following link will take you to the Supreme website section for December 2014 Building the Domestic Church.

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/domestic-church/december.html> Also, in this edition of Unitas, the "Know Your Faith" column written monthly by BK Ken Konetzki focuses on family prayer. Please take time to read this as I felt like Ken was talking directly to me as I was reading this. I can't imagine the graces that can be obtained by parents and children all on the same page in embracing family prayer and gentlemen, the leadership starts with you.

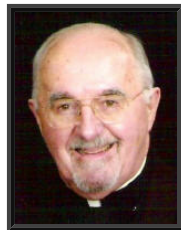
Last but not least, we are again hosting become a Knight Before Christmas this coming Sunday Dec. 7th at STJN. The First Degree will begin at 1:00pm, candidates to arrive no later than 12:30pm. The Second and Third Degrees will be at 2:00pm, candidates to arrive no later than 1:30pm. For new BK's joining our Council that plan to attend, Paul Braddock (630-901-3164) should be notified and for existing First Degree BK's that plan to attend the Second and Third Degrees, Bob Gilmartin (312-771-6685) should be notified and please sign up online, www.kofc12497.com

God Bless,
Fred Karl – GK
Cell: 847-373-2922

Chaplain's Report

Stay Awake

Message for 11/30/14
1st Sunday in Advent (B)



In today's first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 63:16-19), an interesting question surfaces in a dialogue between the LORD and the prophet Isaiah: "You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?"

12/24 Parking 4:00pM - All Churches

January, 2015

- 01/05 Ladies Auxiliary - SPDT Fr. Carse
- 01/12 Business Meeting-SJN
- 01/18 March for Life - Chicago

February, 2015

- 02/02 Ladies Auxiliary - SPDT Fr. Carse
- 02/09 Business Meeting-SJN

March, 2015

- 03/02 Ladies Auxiliary - SPDT Fr. Carse
- 03/05-08 Here I Am Lord - SPCR
- 03/09 Business Meeting-SJN

Don't forget to see and sign up for activities at:

http://kofc12497.com/wordpress/?page_id=318

Access past issues of this newsletter:

http://kofc12497.com/wordpress/?page_id=764

1st Degree Schedule

- Sunday December 7, SJN, Major Degree, 1:00PM
- Monday February 9, SJN, prior to scheduled Council Meeting, 6:00PM

Orientation Schedule

- Sunday January 11 2015, St. Pat's Crane Rd., Pre-Function Room, 6:30PM

Everyone is invited, but please call Paul Braddock, 630-901-3164, in advance to ensure preparations are made for you

Co-Knights of the Month



I, for one, have often wondered about this very question. Why is it, LORD, that we wander away from you? That we harden our hearts and no longer fear your retribution when we sin, especially when we actually are trying to follow your way? Remember Flip Wilson, who used to say: "The devil made me do it!" It was said in jest, but how true it is. We find it too easy to place the blame on Satan and not look inwardly into our hearts to see if we are actually trying to follow the way of the Lord. It can be frustrating for us to follow the way of the Lord when there are so many temptations that plague us in this world of ours. It takes a real determination for us to ignore worldly pleasures and seek the way of the Lord.

When God's people returned from their exile in Babylon, they experienced frustration in their attempt to reconstruct the ravaged city of Jerusalem and the temple of the Lord, they blamed their failure on their sins and asked this same question. They were praying for God's intervention and help. Isn't this true for all of us when we find ourselves sinning in spite of ourselves? Why, Lord? Harden not our hearts, we pray. God, we know that we can't do it alone, that we, too, need your intervention and help. And, like God's people in the first reading, we acknowledge our sins and hope for God's mercy to come upon us: **"Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: We are all the work of your hands."**

Today, the first Sunday in Advent, is the beginning of the season of watchful waiting, a waiting for the coming of the Lord, remembering the first coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and, hoping and praying that he will find us acceptable for his promise of everlasting life in the glory of his kingdom in heaven when he comes again. Responsorial Psalm 80 is an echo of that prayer: **"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted, the son of man whom you yourself made strong. May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name."**

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 1:3-9), reminds them (and us) of the grace that God gives us through his testimony to his Son, Jesus Christ: **"I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."**

October Co-Knights of the Month are Co-Youth Directors Gavin Burke and Chris Hamel for hosting a successful, very well attended Youth Soccer Challenge

The November Knight of the Month will be announced at the December Social Meeting

Know Your Faith

By Sir Knight Ken Konetzki

Family Prayer

Some time ago, Father Patrick Peyton used the phrase "The family that prays together, stays together," as a rallying cry for his Family Rosary Crusade. Since then there have been numerous studies that show correlations that seem to bear this out. It behooves us then, as leaders of our respective domestic church, to incorporate a regular practice of prayer in our family interaction.

If you're like me, you might be a little hesitant to do this, not because you don't like the idea or doubt that it has merit, but rather because you just don't think yourself competent in this area. If so, then I encourage you to consider G.K. Chesterton's wise words, "If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly."

Chesterton was writing in defense of "amateurs" over "professionals," not inconsistent with the Catholic principle of subsidiarity. However, I use it here in the sense of another phrase: practice makes perfect. A baby's first steps are anything but graceful but who would try to dissuade them from walking?

Fortunately, as a Catholic you have many common prayers to choose from, and you already know them well. It is not so hard to say grace at mealtimes, for example, and you could easily gather all together to share in an "Our Father" at the start of the day before everybody goes off to school or work. As you grow in confidence and family prayer becomes more familiar, try a Rosary or Divine Mercy devotion. You don't have to come up with something novel every time you pray and praying common prayer together helps the family realize their unity - no different from the unity we feel with other Catholics when we pray at Mass.

Of course as wonderful as common prayer is, free form prayer can be powerful too. Praying aloud for others in the family reinforces your love for them, and them hearing it reinforces their love for you. Sharing your thoughts in prayer is sharing yourself and encourages mutual understanding.

If you are wondering how to start a free form prayer, remember there are no rules really, just speak from your heart. However, if you like you can borrow a formula that the Church

So, my friends, as we enter into this season of Advent, let us renew our commitment to following the way of the Lord, praying that he will find us awake and watchful for his coming, as we hear in today's gospel from Mark (Mk 13: 33-37): **"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"**

Stay awake with the Lord!!!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Joe

Family and Friends Night at Szechwan Restaurant



Hungry for some delicious Chinese food? Want to help the Council fund its programs at the same time? Then treat Mom to a

meal at, or take-out from, The Szechwan Restaurant, 117 West Main Street in downtown St. Charles, (630 513 1889), on the last Wednesday of each month.

Give your paid bill to the hostess and ask her to put it in the "KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FAMILY AND FRIENDS" container. The Council will receive 15% of your food bill as a donation from the fine folks at Szechwan.

And hey - tell yur friends and neighbors to come and reference the Knights as well!

Church Event

KofC 12497 Presents

often uses: To, Who, Do, Through. I'll give you an example:

Almighty and everlasting God, you created us in your image, male and female and bid us to be fruitful and multiply, thereby establishing the family as the means by which you would share your love. Help us encourage, support, and grow in love for each other so that we may be strengthened in order to share your love with the greater community and foster your kingdom here on earth. This we humbly ask through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pax et Bonum

Mystic Monk Coffee

Support the Ladies Auxiliary



Support the Ladies Auxiliary by ordering Mystic Monk Coffee. Just go to <http://www.mysticmonkcoffee.com/store/?aid=1017>

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Outside Guard [Rich Duensing](#)

Trustee (3 Year) [Jason Lynch](#)

Trustee (2 Year) [Paul Herrmann](#)

Trustee (1 Year) [Tim Cooper](#)

District Deputy [Chris Brazas](#)



When: Sunday, December 14th 4:30 pm

Where: Dempsey Hall - STP Crane Road

! Come Early Enjoy the fun !

See the movie.. Experience 1946 for the first time or all over again!

Popcorn... Trailers... Trivia...

2015 Here I Am Lord



Here is some preliminary information about the 2015 Here I Am Lord conference that will be held March 5th through the 8th.

There will be a call for volunteers to help out on Saturday for some sort of a Pancake Breakfast for 400-500 people, but details are still being worked.

This year the organizers are going to be selling advertising on the back of the 1,000 t-shirts for the grade school workshop at HERE I

Field Agent [Greg Paul](#)
(708) 601-5489

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Church Director [Gary Topacio](#)

Co-Community Director [Jim McNamara](#)

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Sponsors

AM LORD....If anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Mike Zak (mikezakym@gmail.com)

2015 Bellarmine Silent Retreat

BELLARMINÉ

JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE




January 16-18, 2015
Retreat Master, Fr. Rick McGurn, SJ
An Ignatian, Silent Retreat for Men

The retreat begins on Friday night with dinner and fellowship. After dinner, silence commences and the retreat master gives the first of eight talks which are adapted from the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Your retreat is a time for personal silence and prayer. You can listen to the talks, walk the Way of the Cross, pray the Rosary, receive the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Healing, converse with a Spiritual Director or simply enjoy the beauty of 80 acres set outside the grind of daily life.

Visit us online or scan the QR code to register for this or any other retreat or spiritual program.



420 W County Line Rd • Barrington, IL 60010 • 847-381-1261
www.jesuitretreat.org

Fr. Rick McGurn, S.J., is a native of Oak Park, Illinois. He entered the Jesuits in 1967 and was ordained a priest in 1975. He has been an associate pastor at Jesuit parishes in Chicago and Cincinnati, and in the 1980's was Supervisor of Retreat Directors at the Jesuit Retreat House in Cincinnati for seven years. More recently was the Socius -- Executive Assistant -- to the Provincial of the Chicago Province, as well as the Provincial's Assistant for Formation, overseeing the studies of men preparing for ordination and ministry. He was a member of the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House Advisory Board from 1996 to 1998; and was on staff here at Bellarmine from 2004 to 2005. From 2005 to 2011 he was Rector at Loyola Academy in Wilmette. We are pleased he is back on staff at the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House.

If you are interested in joining us at the retreat sign up on-line at www.jesuitretreat.org.

Knight 4 Charity

Supreme is conducting a "Knight 4 Charity" Contest. Recruit new members between October 1 and December 31, 2014 and you will receive one or more of the following commemorative items:

Number of Members Recruited Commemorative Item

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Contact [Jon Mielke](mailto:Jon.Mielke) for more details.

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| 1 or 2 | Ceramic mug |
| 3 or 4 | Swiss Army Knife |
| 5 to 9 | Coaster Set |
| 10 or More | Receive all of the above |

Photo Album

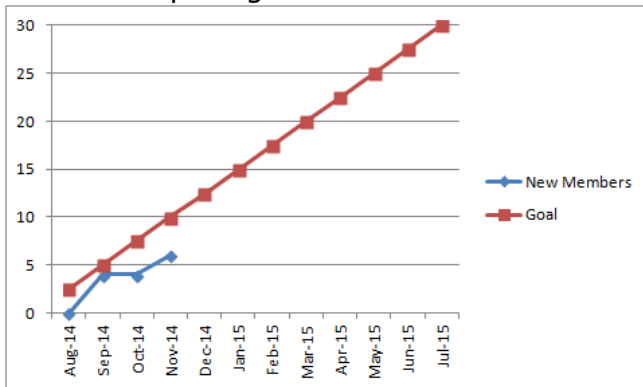


Bob Gilmartin participating in Pies by the Guys

Gary Renn Rings the Salvation Army Bell

Membership Director's Report

Membership Progress for the Fraternal Year:

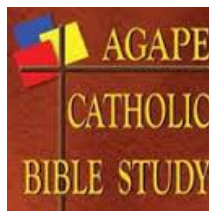


Fraternally Yours,
 Paul Braddock
 Director of Recruitment

Bible Study

Two Bible study programs are starting this Fall. If you have an interest in deepening your faith and developing an understanding of Sacred Scripture you will want to explore these opportunities.

- First, a Men's Bible study of the John's Gospel resumes Thursday night, September 4th, at SPCR's St. Peter (formerly RCIA) room. There is no charge. We use the online Agape Bible Study program. Several Knights have been participating over the last three



years. Stop by to try it out. If you have any questions, contact DGK Bob Gilmartin at (312) 771-6685 or Frank Positano at (630) 263-7778.

- Second, Father Gow is leading "The Bible Timeline" program at the Hermes Center at SJN starting Monday, September 8th at either 9:15 am or 7:00 pm. The cost for course materials is roughly \$36. If you want to get a better understanding of salvation history as laid out in fourteen narrative books of the Bible, this program is for you. Several of the Knights have taken the course and all highly recommend it. Direct any questions to Father Gow or the SJN parish office at (630) 377-2797.



Stand up for Life



Join with your fellow Knights and parishioners on January 18th as we March for Life in Chicago. We will attend the 9:00 Mass at the St. Patrick downtown church before catching the 10:37 train out of Geneva to Chicago. New Archbishop Blase Cupich of Chicago will attend, in addition to Congressmen Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., and Peter Roskam, R-Ill., and

other pro-life speakers. Former Miss America and GOP congressional candidate Erika Harold will emcee the event. The March will be from the Federal Plaza to the State of Illinois Building.

Contact BK Jon Mielke at 847-863-1264 or kccgrfan@sbcglobal.net

Major Degree



Knights of Columbus
Illinois State Council



Email: illinoiskc@illinoisknights.org

Website: www.illinoisknights.org

ANNOUNCING THE
1st, 2nd, & 3rd MAJOR DEGREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

ST. CHARLES COUNCIL #12497

AT

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2900 EAST MAIN STREET

ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

CANDIDATE REGISTRATION: 12:30 PM

1st DEGREE AT: 1:00 PM

2nd DEGREE AT: 2:00 PM

3rd DEGREE FOLLOWING 2nd DEGREE

Dinner will be served after the 3rd Degree

Cost of Dinner \$15.00

FOR RESERVATIONS OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

District Deputy Chris Brazas 847-772-4670 <mailto:cjbrazas@msn.com>

Grand Knight Fred Karl 847-373-2922

Council Phone 847-373-2922

FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.illinoisknights.org>

REMEMBER, IF YOU ARE A SPONSOR OF A CANDIDATE, YOUR
SHOULD BRING HIM TO THE DEGREE

PASSION -- PRIDE -- PERFORMANCE

Pray the Rosary



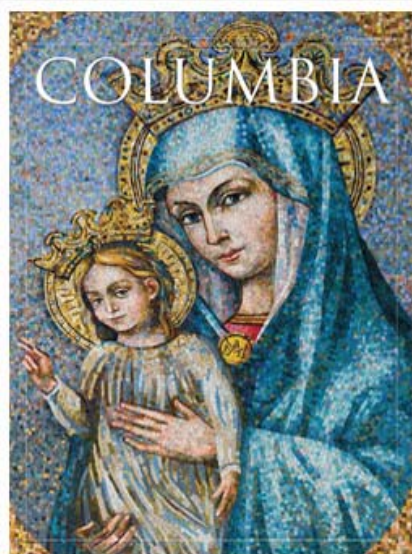
There will not be a rosary before the meeting this month.

Other Links

**KofC Supreme
Council**

[Click to browse to Knights of
Columbus Supreme Council \(link
opens in new window\)](#)

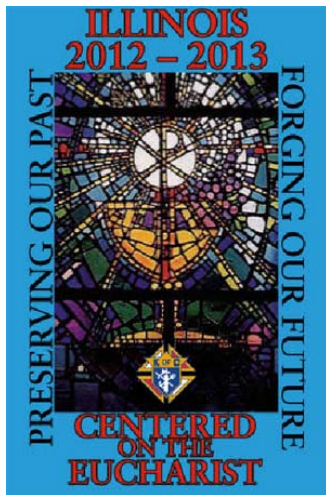
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