

The Knightly News

COUNCIL 4522

CHARTERED 1958



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Monthly Newsletter

December 2023

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Dec 6th – Officer's Meeting, 7:30 PM ZOOM
 Sat/Sun, Dec 2nd/3rd – KCIC Card Sales and Coats for Kids Collection, Queen of Apostles ALL MASSES
HELP NEEDED!
 Saturday, Dec 9th - Council Christmas Dinner/Party, 6:00 PM
 Potluck Dinner, Hannan Hall, QofA
 Sunday, Dec 10th, Breakfast with St. Nicholas, Queen of Apostles ALL MASSES **HELP NEEDED!**
 Wednesday, Dec 13th – General Business Meeting, 7:30 PM Hybrid
 Saturday, Dec 16th - Coats for Kids and Christmas Basket Delivery to PSSJ **HELP NEEDED!**
 Monday, December 25th – The Celebration of the Birth of our Lord!
 Sunday, Dec 31st – New Year's Eve
 Monday, Jan 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR!! THANK GOD!!

Grand Knight's Message

This is the sixth month of the fraternal year. This month also starts the beginning of Advent, which is the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic faith. It is a time of preparation for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In most recent years, this time of preparation has become so commercialized that most of us would rather prepare our lists for shopping than what the season is—preparation for Christ's coming, which should consist of an ever-greater opening to him who wants to share our human condition in loving care. My brothers, despite the commercialization of the season, we are Catholic gentlemen who should focus on the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We should take our family members on this journey, structured, but strategic in gift-giving as secondary.

My brothers, as a part of your preparation for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may I ask that you include the plan of involving your family in the Christmas activities at Queen of Apostles. The Holy Family Nativity you assisted in purchasing will be displayed for our observation. We should make time to go with our families to participate in this special ministry. It will help us in our preparation process by reminding us of what the season is and giving us hope and focus.

Lest I forget, our Council's Christmas dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, at 6:30 pm. The list is out where you can sign up for what you and your family will bring to the dinner. You may sign up for main, or side dishes, desserts, and appetizers. Most

importantly, are you attending with your family and grandchildren? Santa will be in attendance to entertain the children. Please come and help us make it a successful activity.

Let me use this opportunity to remind you of the scheduled officers' meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:30 pm, and the general business membership meeting on Wednesday, December 13. The Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm, and the business meeting will start promptly at 7:30 pm. You can attend either meeting in person or virtually.

Fraternally Yours,
 Patrick Okoronkwo, Grand Knight



Knight of the Month

The Knight of the Month is none other than Danny Restivo. He has led the feeding of people every other month at Christ House, located in the City of Alexandria. He makes every attempt to attend as many Council activities as he can. Danny makes himself available to assist with the different purchases we make at the Restaurant Depot. Please, my brothers, join me in congratulating Danny.



Family of the Month

The Family of the Month is the family of Rick and Clarissa Sacra. They are active in church activities and always say, "If we can, we will" whenever they are asked to do anything by our Pastor. They coordinate the monthly social hours in our parish. Rick, with the support of his lovely wife, attends the council meetings and serves as the Advocate.

**Special Meeting of the Casey Club Association
November 1, 2023 -- Results**

As reported in last month's newsletter, the Casey Club Association, Inc. held a special meeting to determine the future of the Casey Club Association, Inc., the Casey 4522 Foundation, Inc. and most importantly, Pope John Paul II Council 4522 on November 1st.

After an official quorum was established in accordance with the bylaws of the Casey Club, membership in attendance ***unanimously approved*** the following:

A) An Amendment of the Bylaws, specifically, under Article III, Section 3 (c), establishing a quorum of a minimum of 12 members present to conduct and vote on any matter—including the sale of the property and/or disbursement of the principal of the funds in the Investment Reserve Fund.

(Based on the aforementioned approved bylaw change)

B) Approved the sale of the Club property at 4200 Martin Ave. Annandale, VA;

C) Approved the orderly Dissolution of the Casey Club Association, Inc. and

D) Approved the orderly transfer of the principal of the funds in the investment reserve fund and net proceeds from the sale of the property to the Casey 4522 Foundation

The Club's leadership greatly appreciates the membership's interest and participation in securing a solid future for the Council and dramatically increasing the Casey 4522 Foundation's philanthropic efforts throughout the community. God Bless you.

Leadership is also extremely happy to report that the property already has a strong sales contract in place and in fact, has a closing date of December 20th on the calendar. Your prayers for a successful completion of the sale are greatly appreciated.

Questions/comments can be addressed to:

President, Roger Williams, PGK, FS
@ sbrog11@yahoo.com or 703 629-3239 OR
Chairman of the Board, Patrick Okoronkwo, FN, GK,
PGK, FDD @ pokor22@gmail.com or 734 431-1275

Annual Council Assessment (Dues) Upcoming!!

Just a quick note to remind you now, that the 2024 Council Assessment (\$55 for full members) will be coming DUE in Mid-January 2024! If you have an email address on file, you will only get an email assessment notice—

you will not get a paper "bill." Emailing the assessments will continue to save the Council more money in postage and supplies. You are strongly encouraged to validate your current email OR send us a new/latest email to the Financial Secretary, Roger Williams at jpii4522@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Notices, by Order guidance, are not allowed to be sent to members before December 15th, so look for your notices sometime soon thereafter and be ready to remit your dues immediately. Each year, we spend an enormous amount of time and effort tracking down tardy payments. Time and resources would be much better spent on spreading the Lord's Word and performing acts of mercy. And remember, whether you pay or not—the Council still must pay your share to both the Virginia State Council, Supreme, and Right to Life activities. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!!

November Men's Morning Encounter

On Saturday, November 11th, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in Hannan Hall, Worthy Lecturer, Sonny Masso, gave a talk on the significance of St. Joseph, while tying in elements from his

career in the military. The morning started out with coffee and donuts, then progressed to praying the Holy Rosary. Brother Sonny gave his presentation and then gave time for questions and answers afterwards. Many thanks to Brother Sonny for his time and outstanding presentation. We will continue to host these, "Men's Morning Encounters" every other month. We sincerely hope you can make one or many in the future.

Knights of Columbus Celebrates One Million Coats Donated Through Its Coats for Kids Program

The Knights of Columbus celebrated the donation of ONE million coats through the Order's Coats for Kids program by giving nearly 1,000 new coats to Catholic school students in Denver in early November.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly helped distribute some of the coats at Annunciation Catholic School in North Denver on Nov. 6 and afterward presented a special commemorative coat to Lexi Cordova, a first-grade student there.



"The Coats for Kids program has become synonymous with the Knights of Columbus mission of charity, as first established by our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, more than 140 years ago," said Supreme Knight Kelly. "The generosity of our donors and the work of our local councils to distribute 1 million coats to underprivileged children is proof that where there's a need, there's a Knight."

Here in Pope John Paul II Council 4522, we have donated over 325 new coats in just the past five years—due to the generosity of the parishioners of Queen of Apostles. The majority of the coats have been given to children in need as determined by our local partners, the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the parishioners and the assistance provided by the Sisters—and of course, the outstanding work of our selfless Knights!

Remembrance Mass



On November 8th, Fr. Pineda celebrated our annual Remembrance Mass with nearly 20 Council Knights and/or family members in attendance. The Mass was celebrated at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in

Alexandria. The Mass, using scripture from the recent All Souls Day's readings, recognized and remembered the following Brother Knights: Alberto C Bueno, James G Gross, LTCOL (Ret) Robert Armstrong, John Paul Kukor III, and Julius F Ewen—all Honorary Lifetime members—and all other Brother Knights inscribed in our Council's Book of the Dead.

May our Brother Knights rest in peace and may God have mercy their families and friends.

Are you a federal retiree?



Did you know that as a federal retiree, you can now contribute to your favorite charity through the Combined Federal Campaign—just as you did while working? And how wonderful would it be if you selected KOVAR, as one of those charities? KOVAR's CFC number is 42569. For more information, please visit: <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome> You can make your donations through January 15, 2024.

Comments from Our Field Agent

Dear Brother Knights,

As we approach the end of the year, and our thoughts turn to the angelic declaration of "Peace on Earth" and "Goodwill to Men!" We remember Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace where he prays "Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! ...Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last..."

In our lives there is much going on: scurrying around buying a Christmas tree, getting it decorated; looking for that perfect gift for our spouse, our kids and maybe grandkids. There are parties and school Christmas shows. Seems like we're busier than ever.

But let me ask you to slow down for just a few minutes and consider some financial issues that come up at the end of the calendar year.

1. Because we're so late in the year, you may have met your individual or family deductible on your health insurance plan. Financially this may be the opportune time for some minor procedure to be scheduled; or that visit to a specialist you may have put off. The same is true about dental insurance and sometimes even for vision coverage. Check with your Human Resource office or your health insurance carrier for details.
2. When it comes to health insurance, do you have a Health Savings Account? Do you have to spend the money that's in there by year end? Some plans have a "use it or lose it" feature. Do you have to decide about how much to contribute next year? These are a couple of time sensitive issues. Again, make sure you

check with your HR office or health insurance carrier.

3. If you have earned income for the year, will you contribute to a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, or 401k? Are you eligible to contribute more based on the "catch up" provision? Now is the time to start making plans.
4. Speaking of IRAs, have you received your required minimum distribution for this year? If not, the Internal Revenue Service penalty is a hefty 50% of the amount you should have received!

All of these issues come with rules and regulations, and each individual situation is different. I'd be happy to discuss them with you.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us be thankful for all the graces God has showered on us, especially the gift of his Son, our Savior!

Vivat Jesus!

Carlos Perez, Jr., CFP®, FIC

Advisor, The Abbate Agency, Knight of Columbus

A Note From Our Lecturer

"How We Can Overcome Our Worry"

Padre Pio, my Patron Saint, has a famous expression that I know you have all heard before. "Pray, Hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer".

Another take comes from Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, written in around 1860 when he was 21 years old:

"You should rejoice rather than be saddened, dear father, if God has sent you some inconvenience or difficulty: for tribulations usually are the characteristic mark of those he has chosen. I know that your life, dear father of mine, has been like a wheel surrounded not so much by roses and happiness as by tribulations and thorns. Still, may the most holy will of Jesus and of Mary be done. One day you will reap the fruit of all of this.... The mere thought of practicing constant devotion to this Mother of ours brings comfort in every misfortune, in every temptation, in every tribulation. Mary is the only ladder allowing us to climb to eternal happiness.

Dear father of mine, if only we trusted a little more in this tender Mother of ours! How much pain we cause her! She knows well the pains of childbirth with which she bore us on Calvary when she accepted her dear Son's death on the cross rather than witness the eternal

damnation of our souls. If we would only think of this from time to time, perhaps then we would love even more our dear, tender Mother; we would trust her and would have no fear of hell. Rather, if we were tempted or threatened, or if we were frightened by damnation, our spirits would be raised by repeating: if Mary is with me, who could ever be against me? Let us receive everything from the loving hand of GOD. Whoever does not carry the cross of Jesus Christ and does not follow him cannot be his disciple. You will tell me that you are carrying the cross; this is a good sign, for this is what the Lord wants of you. Afterward will come the time of consolation."

-Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Casey Women's Club

We had our last Retiree luncheon & Bunco in the Council home on Tuesday, November 28th. The See's candy orders were distributed. Thanks for all of the orders. We will be having a CWC meeting on Thursday, December 14th at a member's home.

We have two December birthdays: Ethel Apostolico and Dorothy Fanucci!

May you all have a Blessed Christmas Season

-Geri Owen, Vice President (VP)

December 2023 Birthdays



| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Edward Masso | 12-02 |
| Wilber Gaitan | 12-09 |
| Gerard A Souser Jr | 12-10 |
| Mrv George E Dobes | 12-11 |
| Curtis Hubbard | 12-13 |
| Rev. Francisco J. O'Conner | 12-14 |
| Rev. Brian D. Vaccaro | 12-18 |
| Gelacio S Argawanon | 12-23 |
| Robert Joseph Hlubocky | 12-25 |
| Joseph L Lipari | 12-25 |

Reminder

All editions of The Knightly News, past and current, are available on the Council website at www.kc4522.com



*Wishing you and your families a
blessed Christmas Season!*

AND

A joyous New Year!

Remember us, O God;

from age to age be our comforter.

You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning, forever and
ever.
Amen.



Queen of Apostles invites you to attend

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

Sunday
December 10th, 2023

In Hannan Hall
Starting after the 8am and 10am mass

Pancake Breakfast, and photo
opportunity with St. Nicolas!

Tickets:
\$10 for adult
\$5 for kids
Tickets will be sold at
the door!

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The submission deadline for the January Newsletter is December 20th.

MAY THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS BE PRAISED AND HONORED BY ALL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND MAY IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY RULE IN ALL OF OUR HEARTS UNTIL WE ATTAIN TO EVERLASTING LIFE! AMEN! ST. JOSEPH AND ST. DOMINIC, ORA PRO NOBIS!

For questions or comments, please contact the Editor, John Cosgayon at jncos95@outlook.com.
Additional information and points of contact are posted on our website at www.kc4522.com.

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