

The Knightly News

COUNCIL 4522

CHARTERED 1958



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



Monthly Newsletter

January 2022

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY 2022

- Wednesday, Jan 5th – Officers' Meeting, 7:30 PM ZOOM
- Tuesday, Jan 11th – Christ House, 3:30 PM @ Christ House
- Wednesday, Jan 12th – Hybrid General Business Meeting, 7:30 PM (Rosary at 7:00)
Free Throw Contest, QofA School Gym **TBD**
- Friday, January 21st – March for Life
- Sat/Sun, Jan 22nd/23rd – Membership Drive, All Masses Queen of Apostles
- Sunday, Jan 30th – Corporate Communion Mass, Queen of Apostles, 10:00 AM Mass

DUES NOTICES for 2022 HAVE BEEN SENT and are DUE NLT JAN 15th!

Please pay your dues as soon as possible!

If desired, pay online at <https://cardx.com/pay-kofcpjpii>

The financial health of the Council depends on your timely remittance of dues!!

Grand Knight's Message

Happy New Year to the Knights of Council 4522 and their families!

I would like to thank the worthy Catholic gentleman of Council 4522 for a strong finish to 2021. I was soundly impressed with the hard work of our members regarding the KCIC Christmas Card and Coats for Kids Drive. We sold our entire stock of Christmas cards before December even began and successfully delivered the Christmas baskets and coats on December 15. I would like to thank those brothers involved in the Christmas basket effort especially PGK Roger Williams and Brother Danny Restivo. I know this service is especially difficult because of the timing but it is directly tied to the Charitable charter of our Order.

The Council Christmas party was excellent, and has been highlighted in a separate newsletter article, but I wanted to add an additional thank you to those who worked so hard to bring this event about.

I congratulate our Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Winners from the Queen of Apostles School featured in this month's newsletter. I am consistently impressed by the articulate reflections expressed by our students at the school.



The Consecration to the Holy Family was our last event of 2021. We handed out the prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family cards at all masses on the feast of the Holy Family, which was Sunday, December 26, with the help of the Queen of Apostles Usher ministry.

There are many exciting items to look forward to in January, including the free throw competition, which will likely be smaller than usual this year, but should occur sometime in January. Also, in January we have the March for Life, and a membership drive. We are two members away from the Father McGivney award for this fraternal year. Please keep recruitment in mind as you meet worthy Catholic gentlemen who you think would credit the Order.

I pray you have had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a fruitful start to 2022.

GK Dan Penrose

Knight of the Month

Once again, a big event, in this case the Queen of Apostles' First Annual Christmas Festival, provided opportunities for blessings and our Brother Cory Williams didn't let that opportunity pass him by! And, once again, is acknowledged as the Council's Knight of the Month! WE were blessed by Cory's presence and participation throughout the weekend at the festival, from helping set up on Friday afternoon and most of the

day on Saturday, then manning the “refreshment” tent the entire evening. First to arrive and the last one to leave! Wow, what an effort! Thank you, Brother Cory and congratulations on being named this month’s, Knight of the Month!

Family of the Month

Similarly, The Wack Family showed up in force once again and was instrumental in its ultimate success. Brother Lou, (**who transferred to our Council over the weekend!!!**) was always around the “refreshment” tent helping out, but also all over the festival area, lending a hand to whoever needed it.

Lady Flora, a member of the parish staff, and daughter, Cora, served up awesome funnel cakes throughout the evening and all helped to ensure everything was squared away by evening's end. Kudos to the entire Wack family and congratulations on being named this month's Family of the Month!

A FAMILY PRAYER

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too may be places of communion
and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic
churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence, rejection
and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready
comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its
beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.*

4522 Christmas Dinner



The mood was festive as all gathered for the annual Council Christmas Party at the newly renovated Hannan Hall on the evening of December 11. About 50 Knights and families attended the potluck dinner event. The hall was elaborately decorated courtesy of our host parish Queen of Apostles. Each table was outfitted with a white tablecloth with crimson trimmings, place settings, and decorated with a poinsettia centerpiece. The chairs were covered in white with crimson ribbons for accents,

lending an atmosphere more befitting a wedding reception than a potluck dinner.

The food was varied and exceptional as usual. Offerings from around the world included African, Asian, European, and traditional American dishes. There were multiple varieties of chicken, rice, and kielbasa as well as other delicacies. The dessert table was highlighted by a custom decorated 4522 Christmas cake provided by SK Carrol Glass nestled amongst other cookies, brownies, and treats.

The evening was capped off by a visit from St. Nicholas himself who spoke to the children and



posed for photos. He also assisted with the door prize raffle, which saw all the live poinsettia centerpieces successfully re-homed for the Christmas holiday. Other prizes for the raffle included many forms of Christmas cheer and home decor. The Bion family was well represented during the raffle as each member brought home a prize. All in attendance received a handsome new Council 4522 pen, a navy-colored retractable ballpoint pen with rose gold highlights and a touch screen stylus featuring the Knight of Columbus logo and Council information.

Overall, this was a splendid event and continues to be a social high-water mark for our council each year. It would not be possible without the support and hard work of those who put this together, especially PGK Roger Williams and the Queen of Apostles office staff. Special thanks are also in order for PGK Patrick Okoronkwo who helped organize the event. General thanksgiving is in order for all those Knights and their families who provided such delicious food and pleasant fellowship to make a truly wonderful evening. Additional photos of the event are available on the council Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Council4522>

2021 Catholic Citizenship Essay Contes

David De Costa, an 8th grader at Queen of Apostles Catholic School, took this year's Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest honors with his narrative: **“Describe everyday obstacles that you may have experienced or witnessed others experiencing while living a life of authentic faith.”** His winning entry garnered him a \$150 gift card, which he received from Principal Kristie Meyers on December 16th, just in time for Christmas! Jude Cook finished a close second and was awarded a \$100 gift card and Haley Lenn closed out the top three,

earning herself a \$50 gift card. Congratulations to all these outstanding authors! David's winning submission appears below.

Faith can move mountains. As Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as amustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothingwill be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20-21). Faith can also help us overcome many obstacles in life.

One obstacle that I recently had to overcome was perfectionism. This happened last year, during the pandemic, while studying virtually for the whole year. There were many challenges that came with it, including being away physically from my classmates and teachers. Motivating myself to do my schoolwork as the pandemic raged on was challenging enough, but maintaining my perfect grades brought on another set of challenges.

To help me get through that difficult time, I turned to reading motivational passages from the bible and from religious figures like the saints and popes. One of my favorite passages was by Saint John Paul II, who said, "I plead with you - never ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." Those words motivated me immenselyduring the pandemic. They comforted me, gave me hope, took away my doubts and fears, increased my faith and enabled me to move forward and to maintain my grades for the whole year without trying to be perfect. I realized that I just had to be myself and do my best in that situation, with the help and love of my family.

Prior to that, I strived for perfection but now I realize that it does not have to be that way and that perfectionism was actually an obstacle to my growth and prevented me from becoming the person that God wants me to be, which is to serve others. It was during that time that I created a server for our class, after realizing that many students were feeling alone and lonely during the pandemic. This server brought our class together and we helped each other with our schoolwork. The server is still in existence. At that time, I also created powerpoint slides for a senior center because they could not be physically present at the center due to the pandemic.

That period in my life tested my faith and made me a more persevering and resilient person. I am a devout, practicing Catholic but sometimes, as we go through life, we tend to forget that our duty here on earth is to serve God first and our neighbors, and we do not have tobe perfect to do that. As Saint John Paul II said at Oriole Park, Baltimore in 1995, "Faith is

always demanding, because faith leads us beyond ourselves. It leads us directly to God. Faith also imparts a vision of life's purpose and stimulates us to action."

The Lord often calls out to us in the midst of our daily tasks, in the ordinary moments of our lives. He calls us to go beyond where we are, beyond the familiar, beyond our comfort zone into the service of God's kingdom. That call can come to us in small and subtle ways. We may find ourselves resisting it, but if we respond positively to it, we may find that the Lord works through us for good in ways that can surprise us. I now try not to make my life more difficult and complicated by striving for perfection. I am kinder to myself and ready and willing to offer a helping hand to others. As President of the National Junior Honor Society at my school, I strongly believe in our motto of "Service before Self." As a result, I have come up with ideas and organized fundraisers to help the less fortunate in our society. I strongly believe that my faith increased so much during the pandemic as I got much closer to God in prayer and it also made me realize that I do not have to be perfect to be an ambassador for Christ here on earth. As St. John Paul II also said that we should pray to be joyful in this wonderful adventure of life and to have true Christian joy in our hearts, minds and spirits. In faith, I ask the Lord to guide me. So although the obstacles might have been many during the pandemic, faith got me through them all and I believe that I have come out a stronger person and one who now takes action instead ofstriving for perfection.

Did You Miss This?

DUES NOTICES for 2022 HAVE BEEN SENT and are DUE NLT JAN 15th!

It is time for the Council to collect your annual Council dues (\$55 Associate/\$9.50 Honorary). Your dues are virtually our only income—the only thing that allows us to help others in need and to maintain our minimal Council needs. Please note, the Council has to pay the State Council and Supreme a per capita amount for EVERY member—whether you pay your dues or not.

The Council should receive your payment by check or cash by January 15, 2022. Additionally, this year we are happy to announce that you will be able to pay ONLINE via this secure website <https://cardx.com/pay-kofcpjpii> for an additional convenience fee of 3.5%

If you are unable to pay your dues now, please—let Financial Secretary, Roger Williams, PGK know as soon as possible. We realize there may still be some that have been unable to fully resume employment due to COVID or other economic variables.

Remember, the financial health of the Council depends on your timely remittance of dues!!

May God bless you and your families throughout the year and if there is anything, we can do for you, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Annual Christmas "Basket" Campaign

This year the Council provided boxes filled for 18 needy families (90 family members total) identified by the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph. In addition to the dry/canned goods (graciously provided by the ACCA Food Pantry), each family received approximately an eight pound ham, a sack of potatoes, a sack of onions and one of oranges as well. Those items were provided by Mr. Dave Posey, General Manager at the Annandale Giant, at a great discount to the Council. The Council once again coupled the Christmas Baskets with donations from our "Coats for Kids" campaign. All of the families received at least one kid's coat for a child in the family, with one family receiving SIX...as we handed out over 50 coats in total. Leaving a few behind for the Sisters to give out during the rest of the winter months, the remaining coats were once again donated to children attending Timber Lane Elementary School in Falls Church.



Each year, the Christmas Baskets event is a significant "lift" and could not be accomplished without the efforts and contributions of many. A multitude of thanks goes to the beforementioned ACCA Food Pantry (Jean Rackowski, in particular), Mr. Posey at the Annandale Giant, Mother Maria and the PSSJ and of course, the Council "elves" and their helpers: Brother Knights Danny Restivo, Cory Williams, Larry Cirignano, Martin Oppus, new transferee, Brother Mike Kim and FS Roger Williams and wife, Sue. God Bless you all for your time and charity!



Humble Beginnings

Worthy Lecturer – Brother Martin Oppus

In nearly every religion that recognizes a deity, god is seen as an all-encompassing and powerful being, with the ability to create and destroy on a whim. Before Christ's appearance, God – as we see in the Old Testament – is a demanding and active being. He is a God who isn't shy about using His power to directly intervene in human affairs. In other cultures, mythological Greek gods waged war in the heavens, causing terror among humans. In the eyes of the

Aztecs, their gods demanded human flesh and blood as tribute. It is difficult for us to imagine a world without Jesus because Christian values and reasoning are so pervasive and universal in Western civilization, which finds its very foundations in Christianity. And therein lies one of the many paradoxes in our faith.

What we recognize today as Western – from philosophy, morality, and scientific inquiry to art, beauty and charity – started with the most humble of beings: that of a baby born beneath the humblest of circumstances. Next time you reflect on the Christmas manger scene, try to get beyond the flowing clothes, the cleanliness of the Holy Family, and the general order of the scene. While beautiful renditions of this sacred moment are understandable and justified in our desire to magnify the glory of God, it's much more likely that the reality was filthy and smelling of animal excrement. Imagine yourself having to spend the night in a barn alongside farm animals. Imagine no sleeping bags – not even a chair to sit in. Then imagine your wife giving birth in this. It was here that God – helpless and vulnerable – made His appearance on Earth.



The gods of mythology did not bother nor choose to manifest themselves in such modest circumstances. And yet God the father chose to have His only son born as a helpless baby, needing to be fed, clothed and sheltered. And instead of choosing a palatial existence, God chose modesty. Jesus needed to be cleaned. Jesus needed to be fed. Jesus had to learn how to walk; how to talk; how to do the things any child would need to learn. This is how God chose to appear to us.

As we start the church year as well as the calendar year, take the time to reflect on Jesus' appearance on this planet as a baby, and let us be thankful for God's generosity.

March for Life 2022

EQUALITY BEGINS IN THE WOMB!

Nearly 49 years ago – on January 22nd, 1973 – our country was forever changed when the Supreme Court handed down the *Roe v. Wade* decision, forever changing American history by imposing a radical expansion of abortion on all 50 states. Since that time, we've tragically lost more than 62 million American children to abortion, and many mothers and fathers regret having been involved in abortion. When one life is taken through abortion, another is wounded.

**EQUALITY
BEGINS IN
THE WOMB**

In response to this injustice, the March for Life began one year after Roe, in Jan 1974. Thousands continue to march for life every year in DC and now in the states, including Virginia. Collectively millions of pro-life Americans have marched for life over the years to stand up for the voiceless, the poorest of the poor, the most vulnerable, the unborn.

Jeanne Mancini, President of March for Life, goes on to say, "Much to the dismay of abortion activists pro-life Americans have not become desensitized to abortion, in fact, just the opposite has occurred. The March grows every year and I can't think of a more tangible or hopeful sign that Roe and Casey are not settled law."

We are all united here today by our common understanding that every life from the moment of conception is precious and deserves legal protection. When it comes to the inherent dignity of every human person, skin color doesn't matter, disability status doesn't matter, socioeconomic background doesn't matter; what matters is the fact that every life is precious and should be protected from the moment of conception/fertilization. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

For our part, we need at least three volunteers to help marshal the March for Life parade downtown. Having enough marshals is important to having a safe event. In the last several years authorities have added manpower requirements for first aid, clean-up, marshaling, and keeping Marchers from engaging with counter-protesters. Keep an eye on your email for an invitation to sign up! For more information on the March for Life, go to: <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>

Thank you Honorary Lifetime Members!

In early December the call went out to our Honorary Lifetime Members asking for their financial support of the Council's continuing assistance to the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Many have answered the call, THANK YOU! Your contributions, along with the profits received from the Keep Christ in Christmas card sales, allows the Council to support several seminarians each year—the goal is \$500 assistance to each of four young men each year. If any HLM (or ANY Brother Knight) still wants to make a contribution, it is not too late!! Please contact Financial Secretary, Roger Williams, PGK for more information. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Happy January Birthdays!

Anthony J Pasquale	01-01
Paul J Eubanks	01-04
Thomas J Byrnes Esquire	01-05
Steven T Zust	01-06
PGK Carroll D Glass	01-09
Joseph B McFadden	01-09
David C Cook	01-14
David A Connolly	01-16
Innocent Nukuri	01-18
Alfred F De Costa	01-21
Michael C Opachko	01-21
Louis J Lombardo	01-26
James Laurence Bailey	01-28
Stanley A Burger	01-28
James P Mc Glynn	01-28
Paul G Vrabel	01-28
Edward F Kearney	01-29
PGK Billy D Stewart Jr	01-30

Casey Women's Club

Happy New Year! Nine members attended our social luncheon @ Tempo Restaurant in December. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 13th and we plan to have the retiree luncheon on Tuesday, January 25th.

Connie King, our president, wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and Mass cards as she underwent surgery November 24th and is now in recovery mode. We continue to keep her in our prayers.

January birthday wishes to Peggy Puritano.

Here's wishing everyone a Blessed, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Geri Owen VP

Reminder

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



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The submission deadline for the February 2022 Newsletter is January 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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