



The Columbian Gazette

Of Ashburn

NO. 2 - DECEMBER, 2021

ASHBURN, VA

From our Grand Knight

Brothers:

As we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is a great time to look back over the past few months.

As a Council, we have been richly blessed with 15 new members. Our efforts on the Parish picnic, pancake breakfasts, Gender Ideology presentation and Advent retreat have fostered community and provided a venue for families and parishioners to come together. We have raised funds to give dignity to the intellectually disabled, our Seminarians, Christians in the Middle East, The Archdiocese of the Military Services and more. Knights and the youth of our parish continue to lead our parish's food donation program for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Our brothers honor our Vets flying in on honor flights, repair houses, serve as ushers, provide sweats to our vets, organize Festival of Trees and promote Keeping Christ in Christmas through card sales. You have visited the sick, supported our priests and deacons, prayed for brothers in need, enhanced our communications, and performed countless small acts of kindness.

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Dues for 2022

Brothers, It is annual dues time. Please use square or mail in your dues per below. Contact our Grand Knight at gk15256@kofc.org should you need assistance with your dues.

This is the link for your payment online:

<https://stlouismartin15256.square.site>

Or mail your check to :
St Louis Martin Council 15256
P.O Box 4443
Ashburn, Va, 20148

Make checks payable to St Louis Martin Council 15256.

A Message from Deacon Paul

There is one member of our family who, to protect her anonymity, I will call Aunt Beatrice. My Aunt Beatrice was a widow, who went to Mass every Sunday and belonged to a small group that made rosaries for the missions and embroidered baptismal gowns for the parish. She watched Mass on EWTN every day and joined along with the rosary every time it came on. And yet, despite all her good works and devotions, she adamantly refused to talk to her daughter-in-law. The details aren't important. What is important is that she had a history of this behavior. Aunt Beatrice always seemed to be feuding with someone. She had to always control everything and everybody in her life, and she had to make sure that everyone knew she was in control.

On December 8, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and hear the gospel story of the Annunciation and Mary's perfect 'Yes.' One of the things I really like is that Luke doesn't portray Mary as some sort of Pollyanna, where Mary immediately responds, "May it be done to me according to your word." She has a few questions. It's a lot for a teenager to deal with all at once. But, after taking the time to reflect on God's will, she finally says, "May it be done to me according to your word." She totally surrenders to God's will and lets God take control of her life.

So, on one hand you have my Aunt Beatrice, who says, "Thy will be done, but only in select areas of my life." On the other hand, you have Mary, who says, "May it be done to me according to YOUR word." It is total control versus total surrender. Each of us is somewhere on the continuum between holding on to total control of our life and giving God total control of our life.

Advent is a great time to think about where we are on the continuum of control and identify those areas of our life where we still want to do it our way and not God's way. It could be a difficult relationship. It could be an addiction to something, such as power, control, wealth, recreation, sex, substance abuse, etc. God already knows where each of us is on the continuum. We just need to be brutally honest with ourselves and own up to it.

Let's choose an area to work on. Then, when we come to church on Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord, let's offer that area as a birthday gift to the Christ child and turn control of that area over to God. Let's also thank the Blessed Mother for showing us how to hand over control of our lives to God and ask her to give us the courage to say and mean the words that she said and that her son would paraphrase some 34 years later when he said, "Not my will, but your will be done."

- Deacon Paul Konold

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I look forward to seeing you in December during the many activities we have planned and wish you and your family a joyful Christmas season. We have much more to accomplish in 2022 and I know that you will continue to spread Christ's love in our community.

Vivat Jesus,

Miguel Rodriguez
Grand Knight



Handyman Crew Update

Our Council's Handyman crew has continued their work at Serenity House in Ashburn this Fall. Pictured above is brother Jim Sinnott operating a bobcat for work on a new deck at the residence.

In addition to the work at Serenity House, the Crew maintains an open invitation to Parishioners who need help with a household project.

Consider joining a team that is dedicated to helping those in need. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to work alongside brother knights in support of a worthy cause.

Learn more here:

<https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/handy-man-services>

Numbers, Patriotism, and Service

How in the world are the themes "Numbers, Patriotism, and Service" related, you may ask? It's really quite simple. Allow me to explain.

Our world has become number oriented. In many ways, we are just a number ourselves and everything we have is related to a number -- Social Security number; phone number; account numbers; serial numbers; etc. Even most passwords require a number.

What do you think of when you hear the word "numbers"? The Book of Numbers? Numbers racket? Calendar day or month? The old Knighthood Degrees (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)? The degree of injury from a burn? If I say "4th", do you think of the 4th of July? How about "5th"? Perhaps the 5th amendment or a 5th of alcohol. What about 7-11? The convenience store by that name or lucky numbers for a dice roll?

Then there is the number 911. No doubt everyone knows that is the number to dial when there is an emergency. But if you add a slash, that number becomes 9/11. For all of us, that number now brings back vivid memories of the World Trade Center terrorist attack. 2001 – the year that it occurred. If it wasn't for just marking the 20th anniversary, many folks are hard pressed to remember the year. 2753 people were killed at the Trade Center that day. Over 3000 when combined with the deaths at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa.

After 9/11/2001, what did you see? The stars and stripes were flying from homes and businesses all over the country ... even overseas. You could not buy a flag since stores were sold out. Folks returned to churches to pray for our country. Patriotism was at a level not seen in decades. Everyone said that it was a date that they would never forget. Fast forward 15 or 20 years. Did that wave of patriotism last? No, it's faded away -- except for perhaps once a year when it briefly makes the headlines on the anniversary of 9/11. Our patriotism for the country has been replaced with political and social rivalries.

Our country desperately needs to regain our patriotic spirit. We need revive it in ourselves. We need to especially instill it in many of the younger generation who

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think that the world revolves around themselves. There are many dangers in forgetting our past and why we love and should stand by our country. Otherwise we will continue to repeat errors in thinking and behavior.

So what can all of us do?

Fly the flag – respectfully. Encourage others to do the same. Pray for our country and its leadership. Show respect and gratitude to our police, first responders, and others who serve us. Each of us should find ways to serve others. St. Theresa already provides many opportunities and there are dozens more opportunities here in Loudoun County. It doesn't have to be an organized activity for you to serve others. Offering to help a neighbor with a project or bring someone to church or to the doctors are great ways to serve. Other ways include: our monthly food drive, Sweats For Vets, Amazon Smile, assistance at wounded warrior retreats (Boulder Crest, for example), the parish handyman team, etc.

When I was younger, I would see some of the “older generation” wearing hats that signified their involvement in past conflicts. I didn't understand why they wore them. Only much later in life, and after viewing many documentaries on WWII, did I understand that these veterans wore them with pride for the service that they gave to our country. The hats also provided a link to the camaraderie that they share with others who also wear those hats. Some of those hats listed two and sometimes three wars in which they served. Even when I understood that, I was embarrassed to say anything to them ... to thank them for their commitment to our country.

The next time you are out and around and see one of those gents or ladies wearing a service hat, be sure to stop and thank them for their service to our country. The same goes when you see someone in uniform. Our armed services are made up of volunteers. Anyone serving in the military doesn't have to be there ... they chose that career. Make sure you thank them for making the choice to keep us safe and free.

As Catholic Gentlemen in service to others as Knights, there is always a need to be met somewhere in our home, parish, and neighborhood. There are many in need. And there are many who should be thanked for their service and their patriotism. Be sure to show your patriotism in the actions you take and the words you say.

- Doug Smith



Welcome New Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following new Brother Knights and Brother Knights who have recently transferred to our council. Our new Brothers completed their 3rd Degree Exemplification on November 15, 2021, at Saint Theresa's church during a ceremony hosted by our Council. We look forward to your fraternity and involvement in our council activities.

New brothers: Adam Yozwiak, Rolando De Hoyos, Matt Conners, Troy Wells, Mitch Lindenfelder, Frederick Kyere, Paul Switaj, Dan Brendes, and Paul Miller.

The following Council Brothers advanced to the third degree at the November 15 exemplification Ceremony: David Lawlor and James Kotwis.

Brothers who have recently transferred to our Council: Martin Sanders, Thomas Small, Wayne Gretencord, Robert Weiner, Randy Rhoads, and Mark Knutson.

Insurance and Investments Corner

Worthy brothers,

What special celebrations we have in the month of December! Our Lady's feast, the feast of the Immaculate Conception when we honor Mary as having been conceived without original sin. What an honor, too, for her mother, St. Anne, and father, St. Joachim, to have that blessing, literally the grandparents of our Lord! Then we celebrate Christmas and the Word made flesh who dwelled among us. "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." (Isa 9:5)

I'm sure your family, like mine, has its traditions at Christmas. There is decorating a tree and the house both inside and out, shopping for that perfect gift, and the preparation of the special meal. Maybe you start the real celebration by attending Midnight Mass. And perhaps this year it will mean a return to a houseful of relatives around your Christmas dinner table. I hope and pray that you and your family find peace and joy during this season!

As we approach the end of the year I want to thank each of you for the trust you've placed in me. I have been able to help so many brother Knights and their families with the services and products that the Order has available to protect Catholic families. I consider it an honor to be able to serve you as your agent. One way I may be able to serve you better is to make sure you respond to the survey that was sent from the Supreme Office recently. While some snail mail is still delayed, you should have received it. Answering the survey will help me serve you better. If you like convenience you may want to complete the survey online. Please be sure to check your contact information and make sure it is correct. If you have not yet received your survey, please let me know.

Have a very Merry Christmas! Let's be thankful for all the graces and gifts that God has blessed us with, especially the gift of his Son!

Vivat Jesus!

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!

Benny Perez



Sweats for Vets program 2021

Please consider purchasing and donating a set (or two, or more) of sweat suits that will be donated to veterans at the Martinsburg VA hospital in West Virginia.

On Monday December 26 will be the "Wrap and Pack" event at the VFW Post to wrap/box up the sweats for distribution to the veterans. On Saturday, January 22 we will transport the boxed sets of sweats to the VAMC in Martinsburg WV 25405. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

The donations can make a world of difference for these fine men and women. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Joe Potak, PGK (ajpotak@yahoo.com).



Save the Date! Breakfast with Santa on December 19

Our annual Breakfast with Santa will be held on Sunday, December 19 in the school cafeteria. Join Santa and enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, potatoes, sausage, orange juice and coffee! Santa will be there

from 9 am to 12 noon. Profits will go to the [Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter](#) (LAWS).



Food Donation Program

Our monthly food donation program, the St. Lucy project, led by brother Erich Stephanyshyn and supported by St. Theresa's Youth

Group as well as our Council, is on track to deliver over 50,000 lbs. of food to the Catholic Charities Food Bank in 2021. This milestone comes as a result of planning, coordination and the hard work of all involved. Of course all of this would not be possible without the continued responsiveness and generosity of our parishioners.

Thank you for your kind support!

Learn more about the Food Donation Program here:

<https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/loudoun-food-pantry-2>

Knights of Columbus Council 15256

Calendar of Events

Grand Knight Miguel Rodriguez



COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2021-2022

2021 December						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29	30	01	02	03	04 Advent Retreat?	05
06 Business Meeting	07	08 The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Breakfast with Santa
20 LCPS Winter Break	21 LCPS Winter Break	22 LCPS Winter Break	23 LCPS Winter Break	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27 LCPS Winter Break	28 LCPS Winter Break	29 LCPS Winter Break	30 LCPS Winter Break	31 LCPS Winter Break	01	02

2022 January						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27 LCPS Winter Break	28 LCPS Winter Break	29 LCPS Winter Break	30 LCPS Winter Break	31 LCPS Winter Break	01	02
03 Business Meeting	04	05	06	07	08	09 Parish Breakfast
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Council Free-Throw Challenge	18	19	20	21 National March For Life	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Food Drive	30 Food Drive
31 LCPS Moveable Student Holiday Fraternal Survey Form DUE Free Throw Report Form DUE Special Olympics reporting	01	Notes:				

2022 February						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
07 Business Meeting	08	09	10	11	12	13 Parish Breakfast
14	15 Semi Annual Audit DUE	16	17	18	19	20
21 President's Day District Free-Throw Challenge	22	23	24	25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	26 Food Drive	27 Food Drive
28	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	Notes: Fish Fry before Lent				

Chaplain
District Deputy
Grand Knight
Deputy Grand Knight
Chancellor
Financial Secretary
Warden
Recorder
Treasurer
Advocate
Trustees

Lecturer
Inside Guard
Inside Guard
Outside Guard
Fraternal Benefits
Field Agent

Faith Director
Community Director
lin
Life Director
Public Relations

Family Director
Membership Director
Recruitment Committee

Construction Team Lead
KOVAR Team Lead
Technology Team
Parish Picnic

Father Hudgins
Cole Slattery
Miguel Rodriguez
Rob McNamee
John Beauchesne
Attilio Manzano
John Hegarty
Jack Hayes
Mike Boyle
Steve Rogers
Manny Galvan
Joseph Potak
William Lehner
Vincent Tranchitella
Lem Kemanya
Kyle Dumouchelle
Steve McLaughlin

Benny Perez

Dana Stalcup
Stephen McLaughlin

John L. Hayes
Rudy Flores
Dave Scheder
Eric Ciliberti
Erich I. Stefanyshyn
John Beauchesne
John L. Hayes
Francis O'Gara
James Sinnott
Donald J. Smaltz
Anthony Gizzi
William Lehner

Visit our Website: <https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/>

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FRATERNAL CALENDAR
<https://a7fbd55-0810-4f2d-b6c5-682b42712b41.filesusr.com/>