



The Knightlighter



The Official Publication of the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. James R. Jones Council 3303
and Kenneth I. Parker Assembly 1820, New Bern, NC

December

December 1, 9 AM -
Christmas Celebration @ St.
Paul School

December 1, 7 PM
Council Business Meeting

December 2, 7 PM
Assembly Officers Meeting

December 7 - Bingo

December 9, 7 PM
Assembly Meeting

December 14 – Bingo

December 21 - Bingo

December 28 - Bingo

December 29, 7 PM
Council Officers Meeting

Volume: 2020 – 12
Editor: Guy Ferrante

Grand Knight's Comments



Brother Knights,

We started the month of November with euphoria generated by the beatification of our founder, Blessed Father Michael McGivney. We are inspired by his example as we continue to prosper in our various projects to help our members, our parish, and our community. I appreciate the efforts of our Officers, Directors and Event Leaders as we execute the many

programs on our calendar. Each event is highlighted below.

• **Bingo is Back:** We are celebrating the return of Monday night bingo. Doug Uhland and the Bingo Team carefully sanitize the hall before each session to provide a safe environment. Thanks to all the dedicated team members who give their time and talent to make Bingo a fun and successful event.

• **300 Club:** Kevin and Judy Blust continue to lead this very successful fundraising event. Every month the members of the 300 Club have an opportunity to win one of several monetary prizes. The \$1000 Reverse drawing will be held in February 2021. COVID rules will dictate the type of event we will have for the drawing. If you are not a 300 Club member you can join for the new year which begins in February 2021. Contact Kevin at (252) 259-0347 for details.

• **Mass and Memorial Ceremony:** Several knights, spouses, and widows attended the 11 AM Mass on November 1st and

remained after Mass to honor our deceased brothers with a special recognition for those who have passed in the last year. We were honored to have our Chaplain Father Tully and our brother Deacon Jim Hackett participate in the ceremony. Thanks to Brother James Knickerbocker, our Financial Secretary, for preparing the Memorial Ceremony Program.

• **Widows Reception:** Following the Memorial Ceremony we held a reception in the Family Life Center to honor our widows. Brother Gordy Barnes did a super job as the event leader. A separate article and picture appear later in this issue.

• **Christmas Cards Sales:** Members of the parish helped us Keep Christ In Christmas by ordering several dozen boxes of cards. We offered a variety of beautiful religious cards for purchase at a reasonable price.

• **Thanksgiving Baskets:** Our council took on an expanded role this year in distributing Thanksgiving baskets to twelve deserving families. Community Director, Dave Nelson, was our leader for this project. A special thanks to all the brothers who donated food. See the details in an article in this issue.

• **Battle Buddy Project:** This on-going project involves an attempt to call every member of our council to verify their contact information and to just check in. Special thanks to several council members for taking on this effort. We are finding that many folks have dropped their landlines and are using cell phones and of course they are not listed. If you have recently changed your phone number or email use the form in this newsletter to give us your current data. Mail the form to Knights of Columbus, PO Box 13903, New Bern, NC 28561-3903.

• **Membership:** We now have 338 members with four new members and several transfers this Fraternal Year. Our Membership Director, Dan Macsary provides the details in a separate article in this issue.

• **LAMB:** Tom Henry, our LAMB Director, has asked me to pass along his thanks for the generosity of so many members who have sent in a check for the LAMB Foundation of NC. Any donations received by early December will be included in the distribution of funds in the spring to many of our local schools. We are relying on individual donations this year because we are not able to have collections at local businesses due to COVID restrictions. If you care to donate send a check to Knights of Columbus, PO Box 13903, New Bern, NC 28561-3903.

• **Fraternal Benefits Seminar:** Our Field Agent, Brother Norm Wilson, led a very productive seminar on October 24th in the Lounge of Columbus Club Hall.

• **SK Frank Varga Moves to Bluffton, SC.** Our distinguished Knight Frank Varga recently relocated to Bluffton, SC to be near family. At the young age of 96 years he has been a Knight for over 70 years. Among his many accomplishments Frank coordinated Blood Drives held at Columbus Club Hall for 20 years. Best wishes to Frank.

Looking Ahead: Our council will continue to be busy in the next few months:

• **Christmas Celebration at St. Paul School:** On December 1, Santa and Mrs. Claus (Brother Jerry Schill and his wife Pam) will visit each classroom in the school to wish the children a Merry Christmas and give each teacher a gift for the Classroom. Paul Masotta will be preparing a lunch meal for the teachers and staff. Rosemary Whetzel and her team will once again be wrapping the gifts. Gordy Barnes is our lead.

• **Spiritual Day of Reflection:** Brother Dick Dodson is leading the planning for a Spiritual Day of Reflection on Saturday January 23^d. The event will be held in the Columbus Club Hall and will include a Mass, followed by a series of lectures and discussions. Lunch will be provided. The Knights of Columbus NC State Chaplain, Reverend William P. Lesak, will lead the discussions. The event is open to men and women of the parish. Additional details will be provided in parish media as the day draws near.

• **Wives Appreciation Dinner:** Planning is underway for our Wives Appreciation Dinner to be held on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. George and Louise Halyak are the leaders for this event. Reservation details will be published soon.

• **St. Paul Parish Bicentennial Event Coordinator Duties:** As Event Coordinator, we will help the Bicentennial Committee with the event to be held on Sunday afternoon, March 28, 2021. We will publish more detail as it becomes available. I am looking for volunteers so let me know if you would like to help.

Two of Our Brothers Have Passed: SK William R. Bottcher passed on November 5, 2020. He had moved to New York to live with his daughter but remained a member of our council. His daughter plans to bring his remains back to New Bern for a graveside service in our parish cemetery. The date of the service will be dictated by COVID-19 travel restrictions. Brother Edward M. Jones also passed on November 5, 2020. Brother Ed was honored in a Requiem Mass with Military Honors on November 11, 2020. The families of these fine gentlemen will be in our prayers. May they Rest in Peace.

Vivat Jesus!

Steve Harman, Grand Knight

Family of the Month – November

Another highly deserving couple surfaces as Family of the Month. This November, we honor Pat and Lynn Rocco. They hail from Long Island, and both had careers with the US Postal Service. Pat worked there for 37 years and Lynn did 25 years before they both retired. Pat was a customer service manager and Lynn a supervisor of mail processing.

They have four children and 10 grandchildren.

After retiring in 2005, they moved to New Bern. Pat joined the Knights in 2009 and has been a one-man-dynamo. He has served as the Council's Program Director, Grand Knight and District Deputy. For Assembly 1820 he served as Faithful Navigator and is currently the Yard Sale Co-Chairman. In this last capacity, he and Craig Baader lead a group of Knights (affectionately called the truck monkeys) in collecting and delivering multiple sale items, to include furniture, appliances, clothing, tools and whatever else people donate. It's a monumental and physically demanding task, but that does not deter Pat from pitching right in. And Lynn is right there helping where she can. In addition, Pat is an usher and Lynn is a Eucharistic minister.

Between the two of them, both the Knights and Saint Paul end up on the receiving end of the charitable efforts of this exemplary couple. Without the time and devotions Pat and Lynn render to our faith community, we would be but a shell of an organization.

John Murphy, Family Director

Membership Update

Brother Knights, I am pleased to announce that we have a new transfer to our council – Frank Montemerlo.

The Knights of Columbus have the resources needed to stand up for life, liberty, and family. The world needs Catholic men to step up and live out their faith. The Knights of Columbus helps men to answer that call to do more, and to be more. Be proactive and help our council grow by talking to prospective parishioners to join the Knights and add their voice to our nearly two million members upholding the faith and the truth.

For those Knights that want to advance their degree or for new members Online Exemplification is available on demand. For any questions or help I can be reached at 252-658-4014 or email me at d.macsay@gmail.com.

“America’s veterans have served their country with the belief that democracy and freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world.”

Dan Macsay, Membership Director

Knight of the Month – November

The Msgr. James R. Jones Council is pleased to announce the Knight of the Month for November is Sir Knight James Knickerbocker. James retired from the Marine Corps in and he is currently a member of the IT staff at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

James attained full knighthood in 2010 and he obtained his 4th degree in 2016. He was appointed the Council 3303 Financial Secretary in July 2018. He will relinquish that position in June 2021. Specific duties for James are to oversee our Council’s financial and membership records and be a direct link to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Office. In addition to managing the Council’s membership billings, his most recent contributions to Council have been overseeing the filing of the Council’s tax return and semi-annual audit, and managing the Council budget, to include preparing vouchers for the release of funds. James technical expertise has greatly benefitted the Council. As an example, most recently, James assisted in the coordination of our virtual officer and council business meetings. He used his computer talent to create very professional programs for our Memorial Ceremony and Widow Reception.

Thank you for your efforts as our Council’s Financial Secretary. We are proud to honor you as our Knight of the Month.

Randall Ramian, Deputy Grand Knight

Key Anniversaries

As 2020 draws to a close we want to recognize several members who have reached major milestone anniversaries in 2020 for continuous service in our order. 70 Years--Brother James Braddick and Sir Knight Francis Varga. 55 Years—Sir Knight William Field. 50 years—Sir Knight Edward Stepnowski and Sir Knight Fletcher Walsh. 25 Years—Sir Knight Benjamin Beasley, Brother Robert Conturo, Sir Knight Michael O Connor, Brother Scott Pellitier, Sir Knight Ignacio (Bud) Rancatore, Brother Robin Voiles and Sir Knight John Williams III. We thank you for your service and wish you the best as we move forward.

Thanksgiving Baskets

For several years our council has provided financial support to purchase food for Thanksgiving meals and enough food for several more days to support twelve families. These families are selected by staff in six elementary schools in our community. This effort was always led by Dena Sierocki, one of our widows. Due to her departure to be with family in KY our council has an expanded role. Our Community Director, Brother Dave Nelson, is the lead. With the advice of Rosemary Whetzel, we prepared a list of non-perishable items and sent it to our members asking them to donate food. The response was fantastic. Rosemary and her team shown in the picture inventoried and organized the food. We purchased turkeys and other perishables from a very cooperative Piggly Wiggly on Simmons Street and distributed the Thanksgiving Baskets. Thanks to all of you who donated food.



Corrine Murphy, Diane Spallanzani, Rosemary Whetzel and Sadie Stepnowski

Randall Ramian, Deputy Grand Knight

Widows Reception

Our Council and Assembly have a tradition of collaborating to honor our widows where we ask them to come together to be recognized for their many accomplishments in support of the Knights of Columbus. This year we chose a reception in the Family Life Center immediately following our Memorial Ceremony in the church. SK Doug Uhland, Faithful Navigator for Assembly 1820 and Steve Harman, Grand Knight, provided brief remarks to thank our widows for all they have done and continue to do. Refreshments were provided by DeLesa Conway and her team. Thank you Delesa for serving each table and making everyone feel special. I want to thank Brother Gordy Barnes for a super job as the event leader. A picture of the attendees is shown below.



Randall Ramian, Deputy Grand Knight

Faithful Navigator Report



Well, the fall season is upon us, the leaves are falling, the weather is turning cooler, and, thank God, the hurricanes have left our area alone this year. This can't be said to the poor folks down on the gulf coast, however. They have suffered the wrath of storm after storm this year. Please keep these people in your prayers and consider donating to the various agencies, such as the Red Cross and Catholic Charities who help victims of natural disasters such as these.

Our Yard Sale operation continues to move along undaunted. In addition to our successful sale last month, we held a mini sale on November 14th at the Hall. The sale produced around \$680 for our treasury and reduced our inventory so that we can make room for the new donations that keep flooding in. Our thanks go out to Craig and Pat Baader, Kathy Murphy (Co-Chair), Mae West, Denise Biggs, Daphne Beck, Dennis & Carol Brooks, Marie Masotta, Judy Lopez, Lori Grover, Lucy Andre, Eileen Olsen, and Johanna Davis for putting this together and making it happen. As you

know, our "Truck Monkey" crew is responsible for going out and picking up larger donations, such as furniture. Three members of the crew are temporarily out of commission due to medical reasons and we can use some additional help. If you can spare a few hours on any Monday or Tuesday morning, please contact Pat Rocco or Craig Baader and let them know of your availability. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Denny Colbert and Craig Blackwell for already stepping up to help fill the void.

As you know, the Covid19 situation is getting worse as the cooler weather moves in. To somewhat mitigate the effects of the virus, we have purchased an antiseptic sprayer for use in the hall and the yard sale building. We ordered this thing last June and it was just delivered this month. Seems like they just couldn't make these things fast enough. Anyway, we will be disinfecting our buildings regularly to help keep us all safe.

As you may remember, the Vietnam Traveling Wall was supposed to visit New Bern last April, but the tour was cancelled for 2020 due to the Corona virus pandemic. The folks that manage this operation are busy putting the 2021 schedule together and we hope to see the wall visit us sometime next spring. We should know in the next month or two. Stay tuned.

Sir Knight Bill Bottcher, a long-time member of our Assembly, passed away on November 5th in New Jersey. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

By the time this is published, Thanksgiving may have come and gone, but I have been reflecting on the things I am most grateful for. Primarily among them are the talented and dedicated members that make up this Assembly. Without your commitment and loyalty, we couldn't do the good things we do. Thank you for all your efforts to make our Assembly great. Please stay safe and healthy as you gather with family and friends. Nancy and I would like to wish you a holiday season filled with abundance and bright moments.

Vivat Jesus!

**Doug Uhland,
Faithful Navigator**

Hoping My Pants Won't Fall Down In Church

Shadowing us wherever we go to look out for our well-being, our Guardian Angels certainly earns their Wings. Sacred Scripture enlightens us with numerous Old and New Testament examples of God communicating with mankind via Angels, usually speaking in a dream to specially chosen persons about what He wants them to do or where to go. Our joyful celebration of the birth of our Divine Savior Jesus at Christmas each year would never exist had not a young virgin peasant girl named Mary and her betrothed husband named Joseph not had the extraordinary faith to responded 'yes' to God's call for them to be partake in His plan to save mankind from their sins.

As a capricious 12-year-old, my Guardian Angel had little down time. One particular escapade comes vividly to mind. I crouched anxiously in my hiding place awaiting the familiar sound of the train whistle. Before long, a distant headlamp appeared accompanied by a couple of blasts from the train whistle. I had to act quickly. I darted to the tracks and placed my shiny new penny on one of the rails which were already vibrating from the approaching giant. Suddenly out of nowhere, as I stumbled away, I felt a strong yank on both of my flailing hands, and found myself tossed away from the hissing locomotive as it whizzed down the tracks with a deafening clinging and clanging sound from the long line of freight cars it was pulling. Waiting until it was out of sight, I brushed myself off and ventured back up on the tracks. My brief search was rewarded when I found a two-inch copper blob where I had placed my shiny penny.

Fast forward seven years. It was the weekend following the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963. I had hitch-hiked the 300 miles home from college in West Virginia. My friend Dave (who was a practical joker like me) insisted I meet this girl, a high school senior classmate of his. He would pick her and some other kids up from school while I hid in the trunk of his '49 Ford coupe. After picking everyone up at school Dave drove his hot rod a few blocks to the parking lot of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Catholic University in Washington, DC. As the raucous passengers clamored out of the car, Dave came around back, popped open the trunk and I climbed out. We stood there, two feet apart, staring at each other. I removed my ball cap, bowed, and introduced myself. "Hi, my name is Mo Po – short for most

popular - and you must be Rita ... so glad to meet you.” The startled brunette dropped her hand from across her mouth, revealing a cute freckle face and warm smile. “O, my God” I thought, “I’ve met my Guardian Angel!” Two years later, on October 16, 1965, we exchanged Wedding vows at our nearby parish church, St. Anthony of Padua in the Brookland area of DC.

From the start my Guardian Angel and I have been best friends. For the past 55 years, we have shared single hearted spirit and enjoyed doing things together. Around the house she is the plumber and fixer upper while I stand nearby ready to retrieve the next tool she needs. Her unselfish spirit can be captured when she answers a phone call for assistance. “What can I do for you? ... Sure, no problem.” She has kept me moving forward in participating in opportunities to grow in our faith. Because of poor eyesight I never owned a driver’s license, so my Guardian Angel has been my chauffer, driving me wherever I need to go. During the course of raising two children (as any parent can attest) we have enjoyed smiles and hugs with our kids over their accomplishment, and endured heart aching grief over poor choices which put them in a bad situation. My Guardian Angel has been the cog in the wheel that has kept our home a home when God’s plan for us unexpectedly included raising two of our grandchildren. The aging process has its way of shrinking us and making us feeble. Clothes don’t fit like they should which presents another challenge. Pushing my walker, everywhere I go, including up the side aisle at 8 o’clock Sunday morning Mass at St. Paul, I am conscious of my trousers inching their way down. No problem. Just a step or so away – Rita, my Guardian Angel is ready to spring into action.

Mikie Casem, Past Grand Knight

Sir Knight of the Month – November



The Sir Knight of the Month for November is Bob Sisco. Bob faithfully served our country in the Air Force from which he retired. He is a great asset in almost every facet of our organization. Bob helps with our Knights of Columbus yard sales in our electronics making sure the computers, laptops, printers, and any other device is tip top shape for each yard sale. I trust him with my own devices. If I have an issue Bob is the one I turn to for help. He also works on Monday nights at our Bingo. Bob is seen at the bingo card stand dishing out those sheets to patrons. He is always friendly, funny, and a true character. He is an avid volunteer with the American Red Cross which holds many blood drive events at the Knights Hall. Bob is a true character who brings light to any event he helps with. He is a joy to work with and I am proud to call him a friend.

Vivat Jesus!

Philip Nassef Jr., Faithful Captain

Mid November Mini Yard Sale (after the Yard Sale)



Several weeks ago, Kathy Murphy and my wife Pat came to Pat Rocco and me inquiring about having a mini-sale in the main building to clear some of the excess inventory in several of the departments within the Yard Sale Building. Remember the expression that not everything is what it seems? They once again worked tirelessly along with their team of Mae West, Denise Biggs, Daphne Beck, Dennis and Carol Brooks, Marie Masotta, Judy Lopez, Lori Gover, Lucy Andre, Eileen Olsen, and Johanna Davis moving the materials to the main building and staging it for sale. On the morning of the 14th, the doors were opened

and the sale was on! We took their temperatures, offered sanitizer to the participants, and ensured that the customers wore protective masks the entire time that they were in the building. At the end of the day we were happy that the ladies had raised \$556, representing pre-sales for our Feb 2021 Yard Sale. Since we still had a significant amount of men's and ladies clothing, which was well beyond our storage capacity. At the suggestion of Past Grand Knight Mike Lynch, we set up a visit to the Whistle Stop Thrift Store operated at Cherry Point and delivered a truck load of clothing, DVD's, and Christmas Decorations to the facility after the sale.



Pat Rocco – Yard Sale Chairman

Craig Baader - Yard Sale Vice Chairman

K of C Council 3303

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Please return this form to:

A drop box will soon be available in the Chambers to return your request:

Post Office costs continue to rise and add considerable expense to the Council's budget.

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THE KNIGHTLIGHTER

THE KNIGHTLIGHTER is published by Council 3303 K of C, New Bern, NC.

Editorial deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the publication month.

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 Assistant Editor: Open
 Circulation: William Camp & Craig Baader

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