



# 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

- 5<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 6<sup>th</sup> Council Business Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly Officers Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly Business Meeting. @ 7 p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party @ St. Paul Catholic Church
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 26<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 27<sup>th</sup> Council Officers Mtg @ 7 p.m.

Volume: 2022 – 12  
Editor: Edward Martinez  
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## Grand Knight's Comments



Brother Knights,

Welcome to our new Council Knights – Frank Samuel and John Dougherty.

Congratulations to the Council Knight of the Month – Richard McGee and Family of the Month – Craig and Ruth-Kay Blackwell.

The last several weeks have been extremely busy as our Knights have once again been active volunteering and supporting several Council, Assembly and Parish programs. Of note, we concluded a very successful Jim Whetzel Memorial Shrimp Boil fundraiser on October 28<sup>th</sup> (Please refer to article), the Knights Memorial Service and Widows Luncheon on October 30<sup>th</sup> (Please refer to article), LAMB Breakfast on November 13<sup>th</sup> and hosted Donut Sunday at St. Paul Church on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Activities on the horizon for the next several months:

- November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thanksgiving Baskets distribution to 18 families
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Paul School Christmas Party
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Poinsettia delivery to widows and homebound

As I mentioned in our last Knightlighter our Council will be providing 18 Thanksgiving Baskets and related food items to the needy on November 22<sup>d</sup>. Again, thank you to the Knights for your generous food donations.

Also, the Knights of Columbus will be selling an assortment of beautiful Christmas cards and other items to support Keeping Christ in Christmas. Cards and other items will be on sale in the Atrium after all masses on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

and 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Terry Anderson for his efforts with this program.

Our next Business Meeting is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM in the Columbus Club Hall, Council Chamber. Again, thank you for all you do in support of our Council, Assembly, Parish, and community. Wishing all our Knights and families a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Randall Ramian**  
Grand Knight



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## 300 Club Results for the Month of November

Below are the winners of the November drawing. Your membership is especially important to us because it allows our Council to contribute to about 28 charities in the area.

	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$25</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$10</u>
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	William Frederich	John Riesbeck	Robert Sisco	David Finn
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	John Vislavski	Ernest Chilton	Marlene Fitzpatrick	John Lawrence
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Anderson	Rose Whetzel	Joseph Kelly	Bennett Uhland
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Dunham	Joseph Stuppiello	Paula Hartman	William Ash

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## **Knights of Columbus Jim Whetzel Memorial Shrimp Boil**



The Monsignor James R. Jones Council 3303 hosted the Jim Whetzel Memorial Shrimp Boil fundraiser on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. This was one of many fundraisers the Knights of Columbus host annually to raise money to assist the community. This specific fundraiser assisted in raising money for the Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) program, which financially assists people with intellectual disabilities and the Special Education teachers in our community. Additional funds raised from this Shrimp Boil are also set aside for other community programs, which require financial assistance.



Thank You to all the volunteers who assisted with this Shrimp Boil.



**Randall Ramian**  
**Grand Knight**

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## **Knight of the Month November**

Brother Richard J. McGee was involved with the Knights of Columbus many years ago with his father at the Infant of Prague Parish in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He reconnected with the Knights and Council 3303 last year after being inspired by the many activities and dedication shown by all the council members. He said that he wanted to be a part of this very positive and dedicated group of individuals.

Richard's father was a SgtMaj in the Marine Corps, so he and his family lived in many places where his father was stationed, such as Hawaii, San Diego, North Carolina, Maryland, etc. when he was younger. His father served three tours in Vietnam, and with every deployment Richard lived with family in Philadelphia. Richard also served in the military as a SSGT with the North Carolina Army National Guard in mechanized infantry for 18 years.

Brother Richard has worked in New Bern for 30 years at Coca Cola and is a veteran of the soft drink business for 44 years. He moved to New Bern when he reconnected and fell in love with his wonderful wife Mary. He has three grown children, Lindsey, Brittney, and Richard III, and has been blessed with three grandchildren and one to arrive in February 2023.

In addition to his involvement with our Council, Richard, and his wife Mary work Bingo twice a month. He also assists with the Yard Sales and other activities when he is able. Mary and Richard are involved with the St. Paul's Eucharistic ministry, the counting team, and assisting the ushers when needed at mass. His hobbies include his family and he also he also enjoys fishing, boating and enjoys working and hobbies around the house.

The Monsignor James R. Jones Council 3303 is proud to recognize Brother Richard McGee as our Knight of the Month.

**Randall Ramian**  
**Grand Knight**

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## **Family of the Month – November**

Council 3303 honors Craig and Ruth Blackwell as Family of the Month for November 2022. As with a number of our members, this couple stands out in their dedication and devotion to both our council and the parish. Craig hails from Chicago, Illinois and Ruth calls Hilliard, Ohio her home. They married there in 1988 and have been intensely active in the Knights of Columbus for over 30 years, all the while raising four daughters who gave them four granddaughters and three grandsons.

Holding degrees in corrections and law enforcement management, Craig spent 20 years in Air Force security and a subsequent 24 year career in the Ohio Department of Corrections as a supervisor. Prior to moving to New Bern, the Ohio Knights recognized Ruth as Lady of the Year, and they both received honors and recognition for their work at the council, assembly and state levels. While here, they contribute their time in the parish as lector, usher, and Eucharistic ministers.

Craig also helps with the Yard Sale as a "Truck Monkey", at BINGO, and kitchen duty for the many Knight breakfasts, luncheons and dinners. Behind the scenes and ever present, Craig and Ruth are mainstays in the success story of both Council 3303 and Saint Paul parish. And it's easy to see why we readily recognize them for Family of the Month honors.

**John Murphy**

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## Faithful Navigators Report



**Philip Nassef**  
**Faithful Navigator**

Wow! Another month is already behind us. I like to start by thanking Ralph Alvis for helping our Floridian brothers and sisters in the aftermath of hurricane Ian. A lot of people were displaced and their lives were turned upside down. Ralph's contribution is greatly appreciated, thank you again Ralph. We will be sending \$1,500.00 to help with the relief efforts in Florida.

As always, we continue to ask for help with the yard sale on Monday and Tuesday mornings. If you can please come help out. We depend on the proceeds of the yard sale to continue our work within the community.

The Fourth Degree is sponsoring George Casciello, the grandson of AI, for an Eagle Scouts project. He is working with us as well as another sponsor to update the basketball court in the Pembroke community. We wish George the best of luck in his endeavors. Thank you for all of the hard work and dedication we have received thus far this year. If you are traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday I wish you safe travels and a Happy Thanksgiving. May God bless you and may he turn his face to you. God Bless the USA.



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## Sir Knight of the Month – November

The Assembly 1820 selection for SK of Month for November is Danny Gennantonio. Danny earned this honor through his hard work, dedication and longevity. Only Yoda has been around longer. Danny has been a mainstay in the Assembly for decades. He continues to be actively involved in all aspects of the assembly. He can be found after Mass selling Shrimp Boil tickets, and recruiting for new members. He takes the tickets for entry to the dinners and keeps the line moving. Danny is also involved in the appreciation dinners for our widows and wives. Danny plays a key role in the Yard Sale as he mans the exit for payment of outside sales. Danny also plays an important role in the Monday night Bingo program.

**Ron Biggs**  
**Faithful Captain**



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## **A Knight is a Leader!**

At the annual convention in August of this year our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly gave a speech in which, I believe, he profoundly explained the role that we as Knights play in the world today. The Supreme Knight stated as follows "A Knight is a leader who stands in the breach. We defend the faith. We protect the family. And when a need arises, we rise to meet it---with charity, unity and fraternity". The Knights of this council live by those very words on a daily basis and ask for nothing in return. And the same can be said for the wives, widows and friends of our council Knights who freely give their time to make our community a better place to live. Our council Knights give tirelessly of their time to help others who are less fortunate or need a helping hand. That is what leaders do! There are many good men in our parish who would be willing to join our team but only need to be asked the question, "Would you like to become a Knight to serve God and our community"? Those few words can be very powerful to not only strengthen our council membership but to bring into our fold a LEADER looking for that opportunity to lead. Give them that opportunity by asking that simple question!

**Dan Macsary**  
**Membership Director**

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## **LAMB Participation at Mumfest & Shrimp Boil**

The week after Mumfest we had a collection by the ushers at church for LAMB which collected \$818. In addition, at the shrimp boil on Oct 28 the proceeds from the 50-50 collection and the baskets that were raffled off were donated to LAMB which totaled \$431.

Earlier in the year we requested a donation for LAMB from Publix, who sent \$100 gift card to us. That was included in the raffle at the shrimp boil as a prize along with the 50-50.

We are looking forward to the breakfast to be held on Sunday Nov 13 for LAMB. We are also getting together for discussions on what we can do better next year and what didn't work very well this year.

A sincere THANKS to all who have helped on all of the projects for LAMB this fall.

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**Knights of Columbus 3303**  
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## Council 3303 and Assembly 1820 Host Annual Memorial Service and Widow's Luncheon



The Monsignor James R. Jones Council held the Annual Memorial Service for our deceased Knights this past year at St. Paul Church on Sunday, October 30th after the 11 AM Mass. Deacon Jim Hackett presided over the service. Father Tully, in addition to several Knights participated in the Memorial Service.



Immediately following the service, the Council Widows were once again treated to our annual

Luncheon. Deacon Jim delivered a special prayer. Of note, special awards were presented by the Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator "For Outstanding and Dedicated Service" to Daphne Beck and Beverly Hartung.

Once again, thank you to the many volunteers who assisted with the ticket sales, setup, cleanup, cooking, bartending, etc. As usual, these events could not be accomplished without the efforts of our Knights and spouses.

**Randall Ramian**  
**Grand Knight**

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## Knights of Columbus Council 3303 and Assembly 1820 Assist with the New Bern Veteran's Gravestone Cleanup Project

The Veteran Gravestone cleanup project was organized for Monday, November 7th at Greenwood Cemetery and November 8th at Evergreen Cemetery in New Bern. There were six local organizations who assisted with the cleanup – Coastal Carolina Military Officers Association, American Legion Post 539, Montford Point Marines Association, Craven County Veteran's Association, VFW Post 2514 and the Knights of Columbus Council 3303 and Assembly 1820.

The Knights of Columbus participants were Dave Nelson, Tom Hartman, and I.



**Randall Ramian**  
**Grand Knight**

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## The Meanings and Traditions of Advent

The first day of Advent this year is Sunday, November 27. Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, and welcome his presence into our lives. During a time of Christmas shopping, holiday parties, and family gatherings, it can be hard to find the time to prepare properly for this faith-filled season. However, the Catholic Church has a rich history of traditions to help keep our minds focused on the true meaning of the season.

In an interview with EWTN News In Depth, Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P., host of the Godsplaining podcast, discussed the history of Advent and how it began in the fourth century. "It was originally a kind of time of preparation for people that were preparing for baptism," he said. "The feast of the epiphany was a great day in the old calendar, it used to be alighted with the feast of the baptism of the Lord."

Since it was a time of preparation for those soon-to-be baptized, Fr. Patrick pointed out that "It had more of a feel of Lent to it. There was a kind of rigor again, looking forward to the coming mysteries that were celebrated by the sacraments," he said. Jumping forward to the present day, the meaning of Advent is different. It now focuses on the birth of Jesus, and families place an Advent wreath in their home. The Catholic Church also uses different colors to represent the season.

"That deep purple that you see in Advent, that very rich color, is the color of repentance," Fr. Patrick explained. "It reminds us of the sober and somber character of the season and tells us that we should be preparing not just our homes, not just our surroundings, but our souls." The Advent season is not one entirely characterized by somberness, however. Gaudete Sunday (December 11) represents the midway point of the Advent season and is a Sunday of rejoicing. On Gaudete Sunday, which is the third Sunday of Advent, a rose colored candle is illuminated.

"Christmas and the Advent season, I think, are so different from Lent principally because they have this note of hope," Fr. Patrick said. "Advent is a season ultimately of light and we see that in the candles of the Advent wreath." While many think primarily of the outward signs of Advent, this time of year is deeply rooted in the inward preparation we are called to as we draw closer to the birth of Jesus.

During the interview, Fr. Patrick recalled a homily given by Saint Bernard Clairvaux, which is read by the Church in the liturgy of the hours. In the homily, the saint describes three comings of Christ. "Christ came once as a child in Bethlehem, and the Lord Jesus is going to come again to judge the living and the dead, so this is the second principle meaning of Advent," he said. "But, the third coming of Christ is that Christ is coming into our hearts."

"The spirit of Advent, then, is to be ready each Christmas to receive Christ in my life, in the here and now, in a new and deeper way," he said.

**Deacon Jim Hackett**  
**St. Paul Catholic Church**

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## Advent Thoughts

My first Advent preparation outside of our family household was at St. John's Catholic school in 1962. I was six years old at the time and my class had made what was called a creche which was a small device like a crib made of popcicle sticks that would hold the baby Jesus. Good behaviour and correctly completed homework assignments would net you a single piece of straw. It would be used to comfort the baby Jesus in his creche upon His birth at Christmas.

My conduct that year was less than, shall we say, "favorable" as measured by Sister Edwardean. My two best friends were Raymond Swinki and Kevin Russell. Raymond thought the large erasers at our desks coupled with a few well placed pins, inserted into a wall outlet would be a novel idea. This of course resulted in the lights to go out which was bad news for the trio as our principal did not share our sense of humor.

I was also the class clown and I thought it would be funny to plop a wad of gum in Melody McDonald's red braided hair. It was convenient as she sat right in front of me. My friend Kevin egged me on and so naturally I did it. What followed was a visit to the principals office and I was put in a corner and handed "My first book about God", which I read out loud while on my knees for what seemed to be an hour. Another of our noteworthy exploits was instigated by Kevin. He decided to strike his breast during the Concecreation one day at Mass, and POOF some dust was pounded out of his green curdroy coat. By the third strike of his breast, all three of us were at rapt attention to see the dust fly. We were out of the Church by our collective ears in extremely short order and educated in a kind way by Father Cikinski.

It is safe to say that in 1962, in the first grade of Saint John's Catholic School, the baby Jesus was extremely uncomfortable in three of the creches on the window sill of our class. There just wasn't much straw there. Since then I'm sure our Advent preparations have been more conducive to proper, and may I say reverent behavior. I've lost touch with Kevin and Raymond, but pray their Advent is a reflective one in preparation for Christmas. So let us use the Advent Wreaths, an Advent Calendar, a Jesse Tree and our Nativity scenes to prepare for Him and may our ceche hold much straw for Jesus' arrival this year!

**CJ Brooker**

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## A Christmas Wish

As a child we all looked forward to Christmas. It was a time for giving gifts and receiving them as well. We all wished we would get our favorite toy, a bicycle or BB gun. No doubt many of us prayed to Santa to deliver those precious items to our house for Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas sometimes escaped our young minds as our priorities were those of a child. Now that we're older and wiser our priorities have changed considerably. As Knights and servants for Christ our concerns are with those of us that are less fortunate in life. We want to see that child or family celebrate Christmas knowing they are loved not only by God but their fellow man. As Knights of Council 3303 we make that happen by our countless hours of charitable service and donations to those in need and worthy organizations. To keep up the good work we need good Catholic men who are willing to follow our lead by becoming a faithful Knight of Columbus. I know I am too old to make a wish but I am going to anyway. My wish is that my brother Knights talk to that fellow parishioner or friend, in the upcoming weeks, about becoming a Knight. Merry Christmas brother Knights and may God bless you all for what you do.

**Dan Macsary**  
**Membership Director**

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## Who's On First?

Each morning as I pass from the bedroom into the kitchen, I take a moment to pause and glance at three small photographs on the bedroom wall: that are typical pre-civil war structures across the rural south: a tan barn to house the horses and mules that help with the plowing and harvesting of the fields a tall red barn to dry the tobacco and store the plow and other farm utensils, and a two-story family home with a covered front porch with a long bench for sitting a while, and a racking chair for catching a quick snooze.

The photos were taken by a good friend Joe Wertz, a very tall, quiet man of Polish ancestry from the upper mid west, and a very talented professional photographer who teamed with partner Chick Nattella, a short, Italian msn with a speech impediment from the Bronx, NY who loved his NY Yankees Baseball team; together, they opened, at the time (late 1950's) the only photo shop in New Bern; located on Trent Road, it was simply called THE PHOTO SHOP. When taking large group photos it was not uncommon to see little Chick hop up on the back of Joe's broad shoulders to take the picture! Long before today's self-fees captured birthday and informal legal Marriage ceremonies performed at the beach or in restaurant ceremonies. Both were Members of our Council 3303 and Fourth Degree Assembly 1820 here in New Bern. While Chick and Joe are with us today in spirit only, their passing does not sadden me; rather it brings a smile to my face recalling the joy their zany antics brought to me and so many other people..

But my memory of them is not one of sadness; rather it brings a grin when I recall how they would entertain us at social events in the Hall with their interpretation of the iconic comical baseball classic, "WHO'S ON FIRST," first performed by a tall boisterous man, Budd Abbott and a short, stuttering, nervous fellow, Lou Costello. Joe Wertz played the tall man and Chick Natella portrayed the short man.

On a personal note, every November my sister Patty Elliott (who lives across the street from me with her husband Bill) and I celebrate a special and unique day together: Nov. 19th we are the same age! This year Patty catches up with me (again) and we're both 79. The next day is my Birthday and I officially become an Octogenarian as I turn 80! And leave my little sister in the dust (again).

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Mikie Casem, Past Grand Knight**

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## The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated every year on December 8. It is designated a holy day of obligation when all Roman Catholics are required to attend mass. Immaculate conception -- or the idea that Mary was born without original sin -- dates back to the early church. What was simply known as the Feast of the Conception (celebrating St Anne's having conceived her daughter, Mary) led to the belief that Mary herself must have been born without original sin in order to give birth to Jesus Christ.

The popular (though not official) doctrine became a flash point in the Middle Ages, when religious thinkers of the day argued that the singular exemption -- of being born without original sin -- could only apply to the savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As the veneration of Mary grew, however, the church teaching slowly gained widespread acceptance. By the 19th century, it was Pius IX who finally declared that the Immaculate Conception was Catholic dogma and was to be firmly believed in as such.

The Papal encyclical "Ineffabilis Deus" was dated December 8, 1854. "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." A few years later, Bernadette of Lourdes helped further define the doctrine when Mary was said to have miraculously appeared before her in 1858. When Bernadette asked the lady her name, Our Lady of Lourdes replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The statement immediately caused controversy as the poor peasant girl was first cross-examined by local police, and then by papal authorities. But throughout her ordeal, Bernadette never wavered in her account.

The Immaculate Conception was further solidified as church dogma when the church declared Bernadette a saint in 1933. Today, it is interesting to note that "Immaculate Conception" is often confused with another teaching held by the church -- that Mary conceived her son Jesus not through sex, but solely through the power of the Holy Spirit. This doctrine, however, is more accurately known as the Virgin Birth based on the narratives found in the Gospel accounts of Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38.

The Immaculate Conception rather more accurately refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her own mother, St. Anne, who provided a "fit habitation" for the blessed soul who was destined to become the mother of Christ and the new Eve. Throughout the Christian world the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is observed with a celebration and solemnity.

**Deacon Jim Hackett**

**St. Paul Catholic Church**

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