



# 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

## Grand Knight's Comments

### January

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bingo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Business Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly Officers Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly Business Meeting. @ 7 p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Bingo
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Bingo
- 24<sup>th</sup> Council Officers Mtg @ 7 p.m.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Bingo Workers Appreciation Dinner
- 27<sup>th</sup> Tent Setup for Yard Sale
- 30<sup>th</sup> Bingo

Volume: 2022 – 12  
Editor: Edward Martinez



Brother Knights,

Wishing you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Welcome to our new Council Knight – John Pace (transfer). Congratulations to the Council Knight of the Month – John Murphy and Family of the Month – Marty and Mary Ellen Pagnozzi.

This month we say farewell to Brother John Murphy and wife Joan as they relocate to San Antonio, TX. John served as our Council Recorder and Family Director, in addition to volunteering for Monday

Night Bingo the past several years. We wish John and Joan the best in their new home and thank you for all your efforts with our Council.

Sir Knight Terry Anderson was elected as Recorder to complete this Fraternal Year term and Sir Knight John Morgan was appointed as Family Director. Ed Martinez has volunteered as the Knightlighter Editor. Thank you to Craig Baader for his efforts the past years, not only as Knightlighter Editor, but responsible for updating and maintaining our website.

Once again, our Council Knights had a very busy month volunteering and supporting several Council projects in our community. Of note: November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thanksgiving Baskets distribution to 18 families (refer to article), December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Poinsettia delivery to widows and homebound (refer to article), December 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Paul School Christmas Party (refer to article) and December 16<sup>th</sup> – Craven County Senior Center Christmas Party (refer to article). In addition to the activities noted on the left we are always looking for help with our Yard Sale that is scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. Please consider volunteering your time to support this effort. Also our Wives Appreciation Dinner at the New Bern Country Club is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>.

I am very sad to report that our long time Sir Knight and Brother, Donald Monk passed away on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Sir Knight Donald was the Past Faithful Navigator and Past Color Corps Commander of Assembly 1820, Past Grand Knight for Council 3303. Please keep Sir Knight Donald and his entire family in your prayers. May He Rest in Peace.

Again, thank you for all you do in support of our Council, Assembly, Parish, and community.

**Randall Ramian**  
Grand Knight



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## 300 Club Results for the Month of December

Below are the winners of the December 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>
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Patrick O'Toole	William Maher	Mike Casem	Paul Scharf
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Budd Rancatore	George Fisher	Vince Fragnito	Misty Spence
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ben Cruz	John Wood	WB Campbell	George Fisher
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Norman Meissner	Dottie Dunham	Eva Hernandez	Bruce Morris

**Gerald Brenc**  
Co-Director

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## **Council 3303 Knights of Columbus Provide Thanksgiving Dinners to 18 New Bern Families**



The Knights of Columbus, Monsignor James R. Jones Council 3303 provided 18 Thanksgiving Baskets to New Bern families on Tuesday, November 22nd. David W. Nelson, Council Community Director worked closely with counselors from Bangert, Barber, Bridgeton, Brinson, Oaks Road, and Trent Park Elementary Schools to provide dinners for local families. To make up the baskets individual Knights contributed non-perishable food items and cash. The Council paid for turkeys and other perishable items: milk, butter, eggs, pumpkin pies, whipped cream, onions, potatoes, carrots and fresh spinach. These items were procured from and assembled into 18 baskets with the generous



assistance of the Simmons Street Piggly Wiggly. There were extra donated

nonperishable items leftover. These transferred to the Religious Community Services (RCS). Thank you to Dave Nelson, Gordy Barnes and Paul Masotta for leading the effort. Preparing the boxes and bags for each family were provided by Rosemary Wetzel and her team, which included Lucy Andre, Marie Masotta and Roger Wilcox. And, of course, to all the Knights who contributed food.



**Randall Ramian**  
Grand Knight

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## Knights of the Month December

**We honor Brother John Murphy as the Monsignor James R. Jones Council Knight of the Month for December 2022.** Brother John has served our Council for the past several years as the Council's Recorder and Family Director. Also, John volunteers on Mondays to work the floor for the weekly Bingo games. In addition to his involvement with our Council, John is also a Lector for St. Paul Parish at the 5 PM Saturday Mass.

John affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and Council 3303 over four years ago. He was motivated to join the Knights by his oldest son who was the Grand Knight for a Northern Virginia Council and then by Sir Knight Danny Gennantonio.

John was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska and received his B.S. from Creighton University. He was a career Marine Corps officer, retiring as a Colonel. He served two tours in Vietnam. Additionally, while on active-duty John competed his M.A. from Ball State University and graduated from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the National War College respectively.

John and his wife Joan moved to New Bern – the Taberna area in 2001. They have four children, three sons and one daughter.

Council 3303 is proud to honor Brother John as the Knight of the Month. John and wife, Joan are relocating to San Antonio, Texas, and we wish them the very best in their new location.

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

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## Family of the Month – December

Council 3303 honors Marty and Mary Ellen Pagnozzi as our Family of the Month. Marty is currently an Adjunct Instructor at Craven Community College in Havelock teaching Chemistry. Originally from New York City, he has degrees in chemistry and biochemistry. He worked at Pfizer in Groton Connecticut for over 20 years and was involved with research focusing on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Following that, he was a Chemistry High School teacher in Colchester, Connecticut. He left high school teaching in 2019 and retired to New Bern in 2020. Shortly after, he joined the Knights and participates as a Bingo caller, Lamb volunteer, Yard Sale volunteer and enjoys the friendship of many in the Council. At St. Paul Church he is actively in the choir, a lector at the 5 P.M. Mass and volunteers at Knight - related activities. He is also the current treasurer of the Newcomers Club of New Bern. He enjoys traveling to different countries, gardening, playing the violin, and learning to play the banjo.

Mary Ellen is originally from Hicksville, Long Island. She retired as a Nurse Practitioner in 2019 with over 40 years' experience as a nurse. She currently is member of the Catholic Daughters in St. Paul's and volunteers at the Pregnancy Center in Havelock. She is also an active member of the Saint Paul's Choir and participates in many church activities. She also loves to travel, garden, is a great cook and party planner. She plans to volunteer with RCS and at a local nursing home. Marty and Mary Ellen's daughter, Theresa and her husband Kevin live in Salem, Connecticut, and they frequently travel there to visit with them, in addition to their good friends. The Pagnozzi's currently live in Carolina Colours with their cockapoo Ozzie.

The Pagnozzi's moved from Waterford, CT to escape the snow, ice and taxes and moved to New Bern because of its friendly, welcoming residents. Mary Ellen and Marty are fortunate to be a part of Council 3303 and hope to do more for the people of New Bern in the years to come.

**Terry Anderson**

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## Faithful Navigators Report



Rejoice! Rejoice, a savior has been born. A babe in a manger sent for you and me. Let us give thanks for a savior has been born. Christmas is upon us once more. Let us remember his coming and keep Christ in Christmas. I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped hand out flowers for the widows; your help is greatly appreciated. A fourth degree donation of \$800.00 was given to the youth program so the children can attend summer camp next summer. Supporting the growth of our youth is an important component to God's work. We will continue to support them in any way possible. After all masses between Jan 14-15, we will be collecting donations for veterans. Your donation will help a vet in need, so please help us support our vets. I would like to thank the Color Core for doing a wonderful job at Donald Monk's funeral. May Donald's soul and all the souls of the departed rest in peace.

The month of December is full of birthdays and anniversaries, Please join me in wishing the following people Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.

### Birthdays:

- Tristan French
- Paul Masotta
- Dennis Colbert
- Charles Havens
- Jack Butler
- William Madigan
- Charles Knight
- Rew Michael Schuetz
- Fletcher Walsh
- Clement Nad
- Ignacto Rancatore
- Ralph Aviles
- Fred Nelson

### Anniversaries:

- Douglas and Nancy Umland
- Robert and Ginger Wernersbach
- James and Lisa Hackett

Our next yard sale will be February 2-4. We will be setting up tents on January 27th at 9am. If you can help please do as we need all the help we can get. The yard sale is our signature event and it allows us to serve many deserving charitable organizations in our community.

Frances and I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a healthy Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family.

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



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## Sir Knight of the Month – December

The Sir Knight of the Month for January 2023 is Don Hansen. Don has earned this honor through his hard work and dedication to our community and church.

Don serves as president of the Columbus Club where he makes sure everything in our facilities are in order and working properly. He coordinates the maintenance of the facility for all repairs, setup for functions, and cleanup after functions. He coordinates the usage of the Bingo Hall for Blood drives by the Red Cross and its rental to various private community functions. He ensures the bar is stocked with cold beer (most of the time) and wine for all of our meetings and events held at the facility.

On the Council side of the fence, Don serves as one of our Bingo callers. On the evenings when he is calling (or visiting on Columbus Club business) he will occasionally run through the kitchen snatching a few pieces of bacon which he tests to ensure that it is fit for human consumption. If there is any question regarding this, he might pass thru for a number of samplings during the evening!!

Don contributes significantly to our Yard Sale by serving as one of the primary drivers of the military volunteers from Cherry Point and New River. During the actual sale, he can be found hustling furniture sales and coordinating delivery to our customers. Don's institutional knowledge and insights provide for the smooth function and success of our Assembly and Council.

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

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## Council 3303 Knights Host St. Paul Parish Hospitality Sunday

Our Council Knights hosted Hospitality Sunday, November 20th by serving donuts and coffee to parishioners of St. Paul Parish after the 8 AM and 11 AM Masses. Thank you, Deacon Jim Hackett, Council Knight for spearheading the efforts, with the assistance of several Knights and spouses (Terry Anderson, Ed Martinez, Paul Masotta, Mike Lynch, Rick Dean, Ed Simmonds, Brian Keller, David W. Nelson and Dan and Sonia Macsay) who contributed by setting up and taking down tables, coffee pots, donuts, etc., in addition to serving.



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

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## Membership Drive

I would like to report that we had a very successful membership drive, thanks to all your efforts. In the two months the drive was on we gained three new members and two transfers. There are a few more Catholic men that have expressed an interest, but to date, have not yet committed. I will continue to talk to them about the virtues of becoming a Knight of Columbus in hopes of bringing them into our fold. Al Casciello, George Tosato, Danny G, Brian Tolbert and Denny Colbert are to be commended for their recruiting efforts.

Bringing in new members goes beyond increasing our membership role or being awarded Star Council for achieving our recruiting goals. In the very words of our Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly "We are called to be great men --not just 'pretty good men' . And to achieve this, we are given the very Spirit of God, who can lead us to a hope that will never disappoint and never lead into despair". Our charitable works in the community and our parish is a prime example. We are leaders among men and the Knights of our Council are well known and appreciated for their service. We as Knights lead a "meaningful life" and it is our duty to share this way of life with other men of faith.

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

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## Note from our Membership Director

How many times have we made New Year's resolutions and then, overtime, forgot about them or just never followed up? I know I have been guilty of it many times. It is so easy to say you are going to do something but then never do it. No one would know you didn't keep your promise to yourself unless you broadcasted it to the world. I guess I will take the plunge and broadcast my New Year's resolution to the Council.

"As the Membership Director of Council 3303 I promise to work tirelessly to meet and/or exceed our membership goal for this fraternal year to be recognized as a Star Council".

I guess I just put my foot in my mouth or feet to the fire making that resolution, now I must live up to it. Stay tuned Brother Knights and feel free to show me no slack if I am slowing down on the job.

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

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## Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

When eight-year old Virginia O'Hanlon sent a letter to the New York Sun Journal asking "Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus," the newspaper's editor handed it to Francis Pharcellus Church, a sardonic Columbia College graduate and veteran Sun writer to reply. Church reportedly "bristled and poo-pooed" yet produced a masterpiece under deadline and in less than 500 words. Appearing in the Sun on September 21, 1897, "Is There a Santa Claus is perhaps the most famous editorial ever written, translated into some 20 languages and gave birth to an iconic upbeat movie MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET in 1947; Mara Wilson scripted the lyrics and Cyril Mockbridge wrote the musical score. Since then, some 150 years ago, numerous versions of the movie have been made, as well as countless stage productions from high school to Broadway. The press tracked Virginia until her retirement as a 70 year old school teacher, while Church remained anonymous until his death in 1906.

Virginia's letter read: "DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

VIRGINIA O'HANLON  
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET"

Church responded: "VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not completely visible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, be they men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there would be no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, and no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be existing inside.

Not to believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to have men to watch in all the chimneys at Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The real things in this world are the ones neither children or men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that is no proof they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and useable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the joy s inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supermall beauty and joy beyond. Is it real? Ah VIIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, nay ten times ten thousand years, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis Pharcellus Church

**ENDING NOTE: Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died in Valatie, N.Y. on May 13, 1976 at the age of 81, at a nursing home in the quiet community of Valatie near Albany. Church died in N.Y. City on April 11, 1906, at the age of 67, at his home on 46 East 20th Street. He had an unknown illness for several months before his death. He was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y..**

**Mikie Casem  
Past Grand Knight**

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## Monsignor Jones Council 3303 Visits Saint Paul School to Celebrate Christmas



Several Council 3303 members visited Saint Paul Grammar School on Tuesday, December 6th to celebrate Christmas with the School faculty, staff and students. Our Council donated and delivered gifts to the all the classrooms. Thank you to Jerry Shill (Santa Claus), Paul Masotta and Gordy Barnes prepared lunch for over 50 faculty and staff. Special thank you to the gift wrappers – Rose Whetzel, Marie Masotta, Lucy Andre, Diane Spallanzini, Joan Considine and Roger Wilcox. Rick Dean, St. Paul School Board President also assisted Santa and the Grand Knight who delivered gifts and candy canes to the classrooms.



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

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## Craven County Senior Center Christmas Party 2022



The Monsignor Ronald R. Jones Council 3303 Knights assisted by serving lunch and distributing gifts at the Craven County Senior Center on Friday, December 16th. Jerry Abramowski once again organized this event and was supported by Kevin Blust, Dan Macsary, Phil and Francis Nassef, Denny Colbert, Brian Tolbert, Roger Brown and Randall Ramian. The Senior Center Staff expressed their gratitude to the Knights for their efforts in bringing joy to the Seniors of our community.



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

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## The Story of the Conversion of Saint Paul

January 25 is the Feast Day of our parish's patron saint. Take a few minutes to learn more about his life - and lessons we can learn from him.

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

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### Reflection

Paul is undoubtedly hard to understand. His style often reflects the rabbinical style of argument of his day, and often his thought skips on mountaintops while we plod below. But perhaps our problems are accentuated by the fact that so many beautiful jewels have become part of the everyday coin in our Christian language.

Click here for more on the life of Saint Paul!

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/sincerely-yours-paul>

**Deacon Jim Hackett**

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Happy New Year! Making resolutions is the norm this time of year, as we come up with a mental list of areas we want to improve or things we want to accomplish. While losing those stubborn pounds, exercising regularly, and getting to work on time are great resolutions, there's one more important resolution that belongs on all of our lists: being more Christ-like. If you've fallen off the proverbial wagon in regards to praying, including God in your life, loving your neighbor as yourself, or practicing the other tenets of our Catholic faith, now is the time to hop back on that wagon and try again. As we start turning the pages of the book of 2022, here's our list of faith-based New Year's resolutions that you can try.

#### 1. Dust-off Your Rosary Beads

This year, make it your goal to pray every day. There are no formal rules when it comes to praying other than to just do it. You can pray when you're driving to work, first thing in the morning, before you go to sleep, or when you're folding laundry. You can read from a book of prayers or just speak from your heart to your most trusted confidant and mentor and the world's best listener—God. One of the most powerful prayers Blessed Mary urged all of us to pray is the rosary. It was one of Pope John Paul II's favorite prayers.

#### 2. Read More About the Lives of Saints

There are many books written on the lives of saints that are filled with examples of how men and women—just like all of us—experienced life's many trials and tribulations. You can also check the "Saint of the Day" at this website - <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/calendar>

Learning how these saints navigated life's difficulties while remaining steadfast in their faith can teach us how we can get through our toughest times. Let their actions and words of wisdom help us on our life journey.

#### 3. Scan the Ten Commandments—Are You Sticking to These Important Rules?

Many of us think that by not committing the "big" sins such as thou shall not kill and thou shall not steal we're sticking to the Ten Commandments; but there are other important commandments that we must adhere to as well. Are you envious of a neighbor's house or your sibling's new sports car? That falls under commandment number 10: thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods. Are you guilty of spreading along a little "harmless" gossip? That's breaking commandment number 8: thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Print out the Ten Commandments and keep them somewhere visible as a reminder. <https://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-ten-commandments>

#### 4. Be Mindful of the Seven Deadly Sins

Along with the Ten Commandments, keep a list of the seven deadly sins handy. Also known as the seven capital sins, the seven deadly sins are: pride, greed, gluttony, lust, sloth, envy, and anger.

<https://www.simplycatholic.com/understanding-the-7-deadly-sins>

#### 5. Pick Up the Phone or Ring a Doorbell.

Visit someone. If you've been neglecting broken relationships with family members or other important people in your life, now is the time to reconnect. Haven't spoken in years to a sibling who has hurt you? As the Our Father prayer says, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." How can we ask God to forgive us our wrongdoings if we aren't forgiving those who have wronged us?

<Continued from previous page 'New Years Resolution, The Spiritual Edition'>

6. Be a Nicer Person.

This resolution is simple and direct and is something we were all taught to be from an early age. Say please and thank you; let someone who seems to be in a rush jump ahead of you in the checkout line; carve out time in your schedule to spend with your aging parents; say "God bless you" to a stranger who sneezes. There are endless ways to be a nicer person.

7. Work on Your Short Fuse

If you have a short fuse when it comes to a difficult co-worker, a rebellious teenager, or a nosy neighbor, take a few deep breaths and pray for the patience to handle each situation.

8. Be Happy!

How can you find happiness when there's so much you have to worry about? As there's always something to be unhappy about, there's always something to be happy about. Try to find even just one thing to be glad about each day. "The true Christian," says Pope Francis "exudes great joy. The Christian sings with joy, and walks, and carries this joy." In true Pope Francis fashion, he goes on to say, "Sometimes these melancholy Christians' faces have more in common with pickled peppers than the joy of having a beautiful life."

**Happy New Year! Go with God! - Deacon Jim Hackett**



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## Our Catholic Faith

### Without Sin, Always — How Amazing Is That?

'For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.' —  
'The Song of Bernadette'



"I am the Immaculate Conception."

The young girl shook her head — she didn't understand what she was hearing. The Lady had just told her who she was, but it made no sense to Bernadette. She had never heard those mysterious words before.

Between Feb. 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the illiterate daughter of a miller, 18 times at the grotto of Massabielle, near the small town of Lourdes in southwest France.

On Feb. 24, 1858, Bernadette was instructed to bathe and drink from a spring that began to flow on the following day — a spring that was to pour forth healing waters.

By March of that year, with word of the apparitions spreading throughout France, more than 20,000 pilgrims had gathered at the apparition site, but Mary was visible only to Bernadette. On March 24, Bernadette was instructed to have a chapel built on the site in honor of the Blessed Virgin. On the following day, the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette asked the woman how she would like to be called; Mary identified herself as the Immaculate Conception.

The title, familiar to our ears today, was unknown to Bernadette — but that fact made news of the apparition all the more relevant to Pope Pius IX and theologians of the time. Just four years earlier, Pius IX had officially declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Bernadette grew and entered the Convent of St. Gildard in France, where she lived a life of prayer as a Sister of Charity and Christian Instruction. Bernadette died in 1879 and was canonized in 1933. Since her death, her body has been preserved from corruption — a miracle in itself. Peaceful in death, she lies in a crystal coffin at the convent in Nevers. A friend of mine, on seeing her in final repose, once remarked that she looks "like Sleeping Beauty."

Just what is the Immaculate Conception, anyway?

Recently, an on-the-street interviewer asked this question, and got a wheelbarrow full of humorous responses from the clueless respondents. Even within the Church, many people have a misconception regarding this dogmatic teaching. How much do you know? Let's play.

The Immaculate Conception means that (choose one):

- a) Mary was a virgin at the time of Christ's birth.
- b) Jesus was born without sin.
- c) Mary was conceived without sin. Like the Old Testament Ark of the Covenant, which was beautifully crafted because it held the precious Torah, so Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant, since she carried the Christ Child within her womb. Since she was destined to be the Mother of God, she was preserved by God from any stain of original sin, and she remained sinless throughout her life.

If you guessed "C," you're right! The Immaculate Conception is one of the four main Marian dogmas.

Three other clear teachings of the Church regarding Mary are:

1. Divine Motherhood. Mary was the Mother of God (Theotokos), as well as of the human person Jesus. This teaching was defined by the Council of Ephesus (A.D. 431) in response to heresies at the time, and is generally accepted by all Christian denominations today.
2. Perpetual Virginity. The constant tradition of the Church has been that Mary was "ever virgin" — that she bore no children other than Jesus. The Protoevangelium of James, written perhaps 60 years after the conclusion of Mary's earthly life, supports this tradition. Many Protestants dispute this, referring to Gospel passages about the "brethren of the Lord" — this is refuted and Catholic teaching is explained in a Catholic Answers pamphlet by that title,

<Continued “Without Sin Always – How Amazing is That?”>

3. The Assumption. According to the Catholic dogma of the Assumption, “Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in body and soul to heavenly glory.” It’s important to distinguish between Ascension and Assumption. Jesus “ascended” into Heaven of his own volition; whereas Mary, a created being, was taken into heaven by God. The dogma of the Assumption is contained implicitly in the divine Revelation.

**Note: This article is taken from Kathy Schiffer Blogs December 8, 2022**

**Edward Martinez**  
**Knightlighter Editor**



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**K of C  
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Member #

Date of Request

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### Officers and Program Chairmen of Msgr. James R. Jones, Council 3303

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Grand Knight	Randall Ramian	Faith in Action Life Dir	Jerry Schill
Deputy Grand Knight	Paul Masotta	Community	Jim Kelly
Chancellor	David W Nelson	Family	Open
Recorder	Terry Anderson	Treasurer	Doug Uhland
Financial Secretary	Al Casciello	Hispanic Membership	Open Membership
Director	Dan Macsay	Bingo	Doug Uhland
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