

BISHOP ODIN NEWS

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BISHOP ODIN NEWS



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December 2020 (Vol. 39, No. 12)

Grand Knight's Message

Edward V. Ruhnke, Jr.

Brother Knights,

Well, it looks like 2020 is coming to a close. It came in to our lives roaring like a lion with so much potential for friendship and fellowship, money-making and partying, celebrating new members and grieving deceased friends. Now in December, 2020 leaves us like a timid lamb; gone along with all of our good intentions to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, Summer Fling, the Sportsman's Delight, and the resumption of our Bingo program. Did I miss anything? All of those golden opportunities to improve our Council, grow our membership, meet new friends, and improve old relationships—gone.

What do we do now? We trust God to guide us forward. Just as Joseph and Mary faced an unknown future when Jesus was born, we boldly, confidently move forward into 2917's future. We look forward to tomorrow's service to our friends and our Council. We missed all of those monthly meetings, did we not? Newsletters can catch us up on events, but it is very difficult to exactly replace the joy of personal face to face meetings, or the joy of volunteering for new activities with old friends.

When shepherds gazed at the beauty of the newborn Jesus' face, did any of them see His future clearly? No. We don't even see our own futures clearly, much less someone else's. God will watch over us well, as He always does, and we will enter 2021 with happier attitudes and joyful optimism for a better year of service to our spouses, children, Church and Council. Surely the New Year will be better when 2020 is like a very bad dream left behind us.

Let us all hope and pray that God will help us see the best way to go into an unseen future. As Tiny Tim said in A Christmas Carol, "God Bless us everyone!"



This Christmas let hope warm your heart, love warm your family, and the Holy Spirit warm all mankind.

Assistant Chaplain's Message

Deacon Will Hunter

The Gift of Giving

As we near the Christmas season and our minds are directed on getting and receiving gifts during this season, one question should arise in our minds. What gift can I give to the Lord? It might cross your mind that the Lord does not need us to give him gifts. And this is true; the Lord does not need us to give him gifts of any kind for everything is His. However, because the Lord is the owner of all things does not mean that He will not accept gifts from us.

How many times have we stopped to ask the Lord what can I do for you today? What gift can I give to you Lord so that your name will be glorified because of my actions? We readily accept gifts from the Lord 365 days every year. We readily have our hand out to the Lord twenty four hours a day. Yet we rarely, if ever extend our hand to the Lord with something in it.

The Lord has graciously given to us the gift of His grace and mercy. This is a gift that He continues to give to us inspite of our own shortcomings. So for this Christmas season and moving forward, why not put the Lord at the top of our Christmas list and ask Him what He would like from us. We could start with giving the Lord the same type of gifts that He gives to us.

How about we start with the gift that never goes out of season and is always welcomed—**forgiveness**. Forgiveness is a gift the Lord would love to see under His Christmas tree from each of us. It would show Him that we are listening to His voice and living by His words and examples. Forgiveness is a gift that would be welcomed by every person, every day. Forgiveness has no credit limit on it nor does it have an expiration date on it. It is accepted around the world in every place known to mankind.

Another gift we could give to the Lord that would be welcomed is the gift of **mercy**. Mercy shown to others is a gift the Lord would be overjoyed to see under His tree because of how well received it is by others. Mercy is also a gift that has no credit limit or expiration date. It can be used in every place on earth as many times as it is necessary for the giver and the receiver.

(continued)

Assistant Chaplain's Message *(continued)*

The gift of mercy increases in value each time it is used or given so there is no depreciation over time no matter how many times it is pulled from our heart and used. Learn to be free willing with this gift of mercy for we all can use this gift more than once during the course of a year. It would please the Lord tremendously to see that His children are giving to each other the gift of mercy He shares with each of us. Mercy allows us to gain compound interest on other gifts we would like to give during the course of a year so that when the next Christmas season arrives, we have gained valuable interest by giving the gift of mercy.

Patience is another gift we can give to the Lord this Christmas season and moving forward because it also has no limit and is not devalued the more you use it. Patience is a gift that we cannot just give to others, but we can also give this gift to ourselves as a way of treating ourselves. Giving patience to ourselves improves our relationship with the Lord, which in turn, improves our relationship with others.

How many gifts can we think of that has that type of effect in our lives and the lives of others? The gift of patience affords us the opportunity to travel to places in our heart that we could never afford without it. With patience we can access the deepest and darkest parts of our hearts to see the light of the Lord beaming for us to follow so that we can make better decisions more consistently.

The gift of patience also allows us to walk in the shoes of others so that we feel what they feel, see what they see and hear what they hear so as to have a better understanding of the cross the Lord has put on their back.

Understanding is the final gift I would like to suggest we give to the Lord this Christmas season. Which one of us has not asked the Lord as well as others for understanding in what we are going through? How many times have we asked for understanding when we have made a grave mistake against the Lord or against others? Understanding can go a long way toward our eternal retirement.

The gift of understanding can put a lot of spiritual wealth into our heavenly 401K plan. The gift of understanding increases our spiritual relationship with the Lord. It allows us to walk into His spiritual bank and deposit funds which will pay great dividends later when we have nothing left to deposit.

We all ask the Lord to be more understanding with us and the trials and tribulations we go through because of our choices. Giving the Lord this gift during the year will ensure that we are listening to His voice and following his examples.

So as we move closer to the day for giving gifts, try to remember to put the Lord at the top of your shopping list with gifts that will please and impress Him so that all the work He has put into us during the year will pay spiritual dividends for us in the coming year.

Council Officers meeting is Dec. 2

Council meeting is Dec. 14



**Northside Columbus Club meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

Workday is Saturday, Dec. 19

ATTENDANCE PRIZE WINNER!



During this pandemic, we have made changes to our attendance prize for our monthly meetings. We are offering one \$25 prize to the member whose name is drawn for attending in person and a \$15 prize to the member whose name is drawn for virtual attendance. There was no drawing in October. At the November meeting, Brother Anthony Gonzales won the \$25 prize and Brother Bill Selvaggi won the \$15 prize for virtual attendance.

**The next meeting will be Dec. 14.
It will be a virtual meeting only**

**KC Council 2917 meeting is
Monday December 14 at 7 PM.**

Brothers if you haven't attended a meeting in a while, we invite you to attend via Zoom.

To join the Zoom meeting click on the link below:

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6385975941?
pwd=RFNiVW43VTdaTOhQbnpEVjFPMkhzQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6385975941?pwd=RFNiVW43VTdaTOhQbnpEVjFPMkhzQT09)

You will need to enter the meeting ID and password:
Meeting ID: 638 597 5941 Password: 2sznHZ

The Zoom app needs to be acquired prior to the meeting.

If anyone has any questions on how to use this, please don't think twice about calling me.

Tony Zuccarini 713-688-0617

Congratulations to

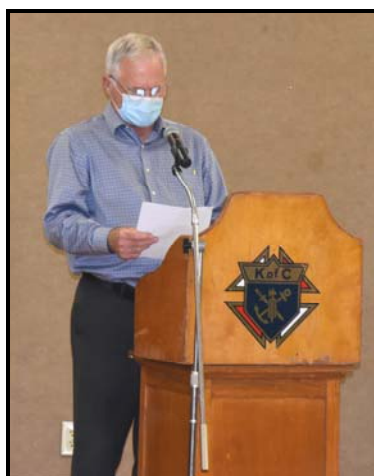
- Edward Okonski, Sr. Knight of the month for October.
- Richard & Barbara Pavlas, Family of the month for October.



"Said the king to the people everywhere, listen to what I say. Pray for peace, people everywhere! listen to what I say. The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night. He will bring us goodness and light" —Do You Hear What I Hear

Memorial Mass

On November 23, 2020 we held a Memorial Mass to pray for and honor the following Brother Knights that have passed away this past year: **Harvey Trigg, Rev. Pemberton Randall, Sam V. Sarao, James V. Descant, Cleo Frank Syzdek, Daniel Mozisek, Joseph Sarrat, Edward Okonski, Jr. Jose Herrada, Joseph Garcia and Frank York.**



"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."



Northside Columbus Club
Meeting Place of Bishop Odin Council 2917

Our November work day volunteers were: Paul Heidbreder, Bennie Bronikowski, David Cornelius, Bob Riveria, James Urbanovsky, Richard Pavlas, Kenneth Bollom, Nick Navarro, Lydia Clifton, Benny & Earline Okruhlik and John Buck. Thank you all for your time and service.



Men, this year has been a very dismal year for the NSCC in rentals and volunteer help. With the low income this year due to the virus, we are more dependent upon your help to make our regular maintenance and emergency repairs to the halls and grounds. Please volunteer your time and capabilities whenever possible.

We are slowly taking new rentals for late next year, but we do need your help in advertising the halls for rental events--parties, classes, seminars, fundraisers and more. You are our best form of advertisement, please offer the rental use of the hall to your friends, fellow parishioners, co-workers, neighbors and more.

John Buck, NSCC President

Next work day is
December 19



Program Director

John Buck

The COVID 19 Coronavirus is still with us. It is on another rebound and starting to affect more of us, at least with me it is coming closer to home. In the last month I have received information on about 6 people that I know that have contracted the virus. I am grateful that none have been family members, nor have my friends been seriously ill. Let us all remember to continue safe practices dealing with the virus—wash your hands, wear a mask and keep the required 6' social distance between you and others.

Our **Council Christmas Program** has been cancelled. We hated to cancel this yearly event, but paying caution to the virus was the best option here.

Knight and Family of the Year Awards—we have been making this presentation at the Christmas Party, but with no party we do not know when we will make this announcement, but hope to make it soon.

Sportsman's Delight Fundraiser—this event is still scheduled for January 30, 2021. We will hold the raffle on this date, but all other planned events for this fundraiser will be determined by the restriction placed on us at the time. Please continue to sell your raffle tickets and if you do not think that you can sell your tickets, please return them to John Buck, Anthony Gonzales, Benny Okruhlik or Bennie Bronikowski. If you need tickets to sell, please contact one of these men.

Our annual Memorial Mass was held on November 23rd. This year we lost 11 Brother Knights. Due to the virus, we had a very light turnout for our Memorial Mass and Service, However, we still remembered and honored our deceased Brothers with a solemn and dignified Mass and service.

Service Hours report—the Knights Of Columbus and its subordinate councils, all parish and stand alone councils, are granted tax exemption. One of the required qualifications to receive this tax exemption status is a record of the volunteer hours performed by its membership. Generally Council 2917 does a good job of volunteer service, but this year, due to the COVID 19 Virus restrictions, opportunities for volunteerism has dropped. Inserted in the newsletter is a copy of the K of C Volunteer Individual Report Form. Please study this report and record your volunteer time in each category. Any volunteer time that you perform at church, schools, neighborhood/civic/community organizations, K of C Council, visiting the sick, bereavement, prayer groups, bazaars, fundraisers, food pantry, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, even giving blood qualifies. Basically, if you volunteered for any project or activity, you can record your volunteer time in this report. Please submit your filled-out report electronically or bring to the hall on your next trip to the hall. I file this report to Supreme in **January**, so please turn in your individual report to me by Jan. 11, 2021.

Pray for our Military

Especially:

Austin Clark, U.S. Marines *and*

Noah Clark, U.S. Army Drone Program.

Both young men are grandsons of Brother Alvin and Bobbie Clark.

Shawn Hrcir, son of Brother Bob Hrcir.

If anyone has a relative in the military and would like his/her name added to our prayer list, please submit the name and branch of service to kbroniko@hotmail.com

Deadline for the January newsletter is December 16.



Let the magic of Christmas bring you back to when you were a child, and let that innocence be a balm to your worries.

Happy Birthday Greetings to all Brother Knights celebrating the gift of life

Don E. Christen	Dec. 2
Brian J. Kubiak	Dec. 5
Ronald J. De Simone	Dec. 7
Baltazar Chavarria, Jr.	Dec. 8
Robert A. Uhland	Dec. 8
John H. Stoever	Dec. 9
Jerry M. Maynard	Dec. 10
Michael V. Syzdlik	Dec. 10
Andrew L. Collette	Dec. 12
Joseph J. Earthman	Dec. 12
William E. Harrell, Jr.	Dec. 12
Monserato Rivera, Jr.	Dec. 14
Archie P. Kitkoski, Sr.	Dec. 15
Ronald F. Wischnewsky	Dec. 15
Robert J. Bollom	Dec. 17
Charles P. Worchesik	Dec. 17
Antonio C. Cavaliere	Dec. 18
Tommy J. Gorski	Dec. 19
Mark A. Roznovsky	Dec. 19
Bennie J. Bronikowski	Dec. 20
Oscar R. Montemayor, Jr.	Dec. 21
Deacon Will Hunter	Dec. 22
John L. McClosky	Dec. 23
Michael W. O'Connor	Dec. 23
Jude T. Sivcoski	Dec. 23
Jason M. Kimball	Dec. 25
Douglas J. Wendt	Dec. 26
James N. Hansen	Dec. 27
Harold Fenn	Dec. 28
Arvin D. Mobley	Dec. 28
Rev. Msgr. Fred O'Connor	Dec. 29
Frank Lozano	Dec. 29
Stanley Jankowski, Jr.	Dec. 30
Richard B. Habernal	Dec. 31

Please pray for our sick:

- Brother David Wilgus
- Brother Dominic and JoAnn Psencik
- Brother Robert and Pansy Miller
- Brother Chris Mocek
- Brother Felipe Ramirez
- Brother John Hernandez
- Brother Frank Garcia
- Rafael Davila, uncle of Brother Anthony Gonzales



IN MEMORIAM



Denise Bilnoski Caskey entered the loving arms of her Lord, on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020, surrounded by family. Denise was born in Houston, Texas on February 24, 1983, to Diane and Charles Bilnoski. She grew up in Oak Forest, graduated from Waltrip High School in 2001. She graduated with a degree in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University in 2005. Denise married the love of her life, Glenn Caskey, on Aug. 18, 2007. Five years ago, the family moved to Liberty Hill, Texas, where she resided until her death. Denise is survived by her loving husband, Glenn and their daughters, Kaitlynn, and Sadie, of Liberty Hill. She also leaves behind her mother, Diane Bilnoski; brother, Patrick Bilnoski and wife, Marcy; sister, Laura Charbonneau Howlett and husband, Kieran. She is the niece of Brother Knight George Bilnoski. Denise was preceded in death by her father, Brother Knight Charles Bilnoski (2018), her paternal grandparents, Dorothy and Pete Bilnoski, maternal grandfather, Gerald Kasmoriski. and other family members that she loved and that loved her.

May God have mercy on the soul of Denise and grant her eternal rest. Please remember Denise and her family in your prayers.

Names on our "Sick Prayer List" will appear in our newsletter for 3 months, after which they will be removed unless notification is received to have the name remain.

Please contact Brother Floyd Supercinski, Chancellor, at 713-861-6725 if you would like to add anyone or have the name remain on our prayer list. You can always read the prayer list on our website as well.

<http://www.kofccouncil2917.org/sick-distressed>

Pro-Life Program Director

Floyd Supercinski



Due to the virus, we are asking all members to pray the pro-life Rosary at home on

December 28

Join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Saturday, December 19

8:10 a.m Mass at Holy Ghost Church at 6921 Chetwood followed by procession to Planned Parenthood, 5800 Bellaire Blvd.

If you can not join us, please pray the Rosary for the conversion of hearts.

For more information contact Vicky Whynott 832-875-5126

<http://www.kofccouncil2917.org/pro-life>



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

There will be no meeting in December.

If you are interested in the Catholic Daughters, please contact Pat Koteras at 713-864-4490.

<http://www.kofccouncil2917.org/catholic-daughters>

LADIES AUXILIARY

Lydia Clifton, President

Merry Christmas Sisters in Christ!

Throughout the month of November we lovingly remembered those who passed on before us. We showed our love by celebrating their lives and memories on All Souls Day and through Memorial Masses. We trudge forward through November and onto December.



What a joyous occasion December will be! Praise be to God the Lord has come! We have a purpose of love and celebration that Our Lord Jesus was born to save us from sin. A tiny baby so beautiful cradled in Mary's loving arms. He gives to us that wonder of hope and new beginnings. How precious that feeling is especially through a year full of sadness, strife and animosity to our brothers and sisters in this nation.

Now is time to throw away our foolish behavior and embrace the love that God has felt for us through the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. Pray for others to also join in the celebration of everlasting love through the gift that God gave us.

Unfortunately our Christmas celebration has been canceled for this year. We will not have any Ladies Auxiliary meetings until further notice.

<http://www.kofccouncil2917.org/ladies-auxiliary>

Upcoming Events

<http://www.kofccouncil2917.org/calendar>

- Dec. 2 Council Officers' Meeting
- Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (*Holyday*)
- Dec. 14 Council meeting at 7 p.m. (*virtual meeting only*)
- Dec. 16 Northside Columbus Club Meeting
- Dec. 19 Council Work Day
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 28 Pro-Life Rosary—please pray at home
- Jan. 1 Happy New Year!
- Jan. 6 Council Officers' Meeting
- Jan. 11 Council Meeting at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 16 Council Work Day
- Jan. 20 Northside Columbus Club Meeting
- Jan. 25 Pro-Life Rosary
- Jan. 30 Sportsman's Delight Fundraiser**



May we all be blest with a healthy and joyous 2021!

May we all become better and more faithful Christians for experiencing 2020!

2020 ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WORKSHEET

Over the last 10 years, the Knights of Columbus donated more than \$1.5 billion to charitable and benevolent causes and more than 682 million hours of volunteer community service to aid the less fortunate. To help prepare our Fraternal Survey for the Supreme Council office, please complete the information requested below and return it by **January 11, 2021**. This information will assist us in determining the total number of hours of community service volunteered by our members.

1. Number of visits you made to:

Sick—caring for the sick/nursing homes/hospitals..... _____

Bereaved—visits of condolence/Rosary for deceased..... _____

2. Number of times you served as a blood donor..... _____

3. Estimated hours of community volunteer service:

Church activities—service in all Church related activities..... _____

Community Activities—service in all community related activities..... _____

Youth Activities—service in all youth related activities..... _____

Habitat for Humanity—service in all related projects..... _____

Culture of Life Activities—service in all related projects..... _____

VAVS..... _____

Food for Families..... _____

Special Olympics..... _____

Miscellaneous Activities—service in areas not outlined above..... _____

4. Number of hours of fraternal service:

Sick/disabled members and their families—household chores, transportation, tutoring, counseling, etc. _____



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Hall Rental

Rental of Council 2917 facilities are available for Wedding Receptions, Company Events, Quinceanera's, Birthday Parties, Christmas Parties, Graduation Celebrations, Funerals, etc.

For details contact
Lydia Clifton, hall manager
713-694-2341.

