

Please pray for our family members who have passed away

Kay Mingola
Nellie Leo

Please Pray for our members and family members who are sick.

Ralph Turi
John Lusardi
Ang Sisco
Thomas Colligan
John Cieslewitz
Carl Williams, Jr.
(scheduled for surgery)

Notify any officer or sick committee chairman
Charlie Paduch
342-2273



Dates to Remember

New Years Day
(No officer's meeting) Jan 1, 2004
Regular Meeting Jan. 8, 2004
Free throw and Poster Jan. 10, 2004
4th Degree Meeting Jan. 15, 2004
Social Meeting Jan. 22, 2004

Officer's meeting Feb. 5, 2004
Regular Meeting Feb. 12, 2004
4th Degree Meeting Feb. 19, 2004
Dinner dance Feb. 22, 2004
Social Meeting Feb. 26, 2004

Middletown Knights of Columbus #486
P.O. Box 323
Middletown, N.Y. 10940

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THE SHIPWRIGHT



NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDDLETOWN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Grand Knight & Editor Carl R. Williams, Sr.

Grand Knights Message

Happy New Year

A year older, a year wiser. This is a time to ask, what did I learn, what have I accomplished? What are my plans for the next year?

The only questions really worth asking are am I closer to God now than I was a year ago? If I am not as close as I use to be, who moved? Has God moved away from me or have I moved away from Him? More important what are my plans this year? Will I be closer to God this time next year?

If each one of us plans to be closer to God then we will benefit, our families will benefit and our council cannot help but benefit.

We have just spent the last month preparing for the birth of Christ and now celebrating that birth. Let's not end with the celebration, let's take advantage of the gift of Jesus.

We may ask how do I get closer to Jesus? Well one way will be to take advantage of the Holy hour we will begin to celebrate as a council. Another will be to participate in the council's next day of prayer. Or finally use the gift we at council 486 have, to very fine and holy men of God our chaplains. They have assisted our members in getting closer to God they can help each of us o grow in God's love. Talk to these good men and accept the gifts that God has placed in our lives to help us grow closer to him. This year let's take advantage of the sacraments and all the other gifts of God then we will have a Happy New Year.



Chaplains

Rev. Dennis Nikolic
Rev. James Sidoti

Grand Knight

Carl Williams 342-8740

Deputy G K

Mike Cummings 733-5345

Chancellor

Mike Biondi 343-1285

Warden

Randy Krause 695-1645

Advocate

Matt Ening PGK 692-2720

Recorder

Lou Scarano PGK 342-3471

Treasurer

Paul Silipino PGK 343-3724

Financial Sec.

Jim Higgins 692-6486

Inside Guard

Brian Ogden 342-6949

Outside Guard

Vacant

Trustees

Angelo Sisco 733-5642

Steven Maleike PGK 733-5751

Michael Amodio PGK 342-6913

Squire Scene



Fr. Prior Dennis Nikolic informs us that our investiture team will be in action in the near future again. This time they will journey to another circles headquarters to conduct an investiture ceremony. Our circles are becoming an inspiration to others in the area, keep up the good work.

Light up for Christmas
Both Circles working with the Knights sponsored a light up a tree for Christmas, Dec 2, at the St. Joseph parish center. Brian Powers coordinated this event. Further the Powers family donated the tree. Approximately 80 people attended the lighting. Fr. Dennis surrounded by altar servers and squires led the ceremony. One of our newer Knights Joseph Viserta and the children's choir led the singing of hymns during the ceremony. Many thanks to all who put in such hard work.

Council News

Free Throw and Poster Contests *Changed*
The free throw contest is scheduled for Saturday Jan. 10, 2004. It will be held in the Mt. Carmel gym from 8:00-12:00. Brother Joe Tory will need the assistance of a number of brother knights for this to be a success.

The judging of the drug and alcohol poster contest will be at the same time at Mt. Carmel.

200 Club

Ang Sisco is hard at work again on the 200 club. Every officer is selling tickets. Get your tickets early, as they tend to sell out. There will be a total of \$1000 in prizes. The top prize is \$500. The drawing will be held at the annual dinner dance.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The annual dinner dance will be held on Sunday Feb. 22 (Grand knight's birthday) at Kuhl's Highland House. PGK Nick Cortese is putting the final touches on this affair. Please contact Nick for tickets.

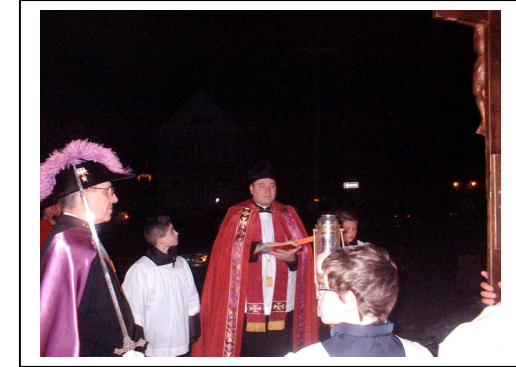
PGK Dinner & Meeting

PGK Mike Amodio planned the PGK dinner. The dinner took the place of the December officers' meeting. As we honored those whose shoulders we stand on, PGK John O'Connor requested that the current grand knight not stand on his shoulders. The PGK meeting was held for the first meeting in December. PGK Nick Cortese served as grand knight for the evening. Many thanks to PGK John O'Connor for putting the crew together.

Christmas Party

The party was cancelled due to snow. It has not been rescheduled.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



4th degree 50/50 drawn at each 4th degree meeting. Need not be 4th degree to enter or win. Just mail \$5.00 and form to John O'Connor, 26 Robertson Drive, Middletown, NY 10940.

4th Degree \$5.00 50/50 

Name _____

Address _____ Tel _____

SUPREME SCOOP



Carl Anderson
Supreme Knight



Chapter Chat

Chapter News

There was no chapter meeting for December.

The next meeting will be the Charity Drive Kickoff on Friday January 23 at Trinity Council No. 445 in Beacon.

Dinner is at 7:30. Wives and guests invited.

On behalf of the Chapter officers I wish a happy and holy Christmas and best wishes for a great New Year to all brother Knights and their families.



Ed Castellazzi, Chapter Chairman



Eucharistic Adoration

The council has decided to choose an hour in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for adoration. We are looking for suggestions and volunteers. Our goal would be to have 2 men take turns each week on our hour. If 20 men volunteer you will only be obligated once every 10 weeks. Please contact Jim Higgins 692-6486 to give feedback about the choice of hour and to volunteer.



Navigator's Note

Burt Struble
Navigator &
District Deputy



My Brother Sir Knights,

Happy New Year, I hope everyone had a Happy and safe Holiday Season and didn't eat too much.

It is hard to believe that half the year is over already, we have been very busy the these past few months.

On January 15th at 8:00 pm there will be a renewal of Obligations, to be held at the Monroe Assembly, it is our meeting night but if anyone would like to go please feel free and go.

On April 17, 2004 there will be a 4th Degree Exemplification, to be held at the Holiday Inn in Fishkill, N.Y. I would encourage any 3rd Degree member to become a member of the Patriot Degree.

Our Squire's are doing very well, 38 young men are part of their group, if you would like to help out please let myself or Grand Knight Carl Williams, Sr. know.

Please keep in your Prayers are members and their families and our Troops who are fighting over sea's to keep our freedom for us.

God Bless all of you,

Burt Struble
Faithful Navigator

Christmas Message from the Supreme Knight

Inevitably, as we prepare for Christmas we will hear the saying "'tis better to give than to receive." This familiar refrain is valuable – it challenges us to be generous, to think of others before ourselves. Nevertheless, it can miss the point of Christmas.

While giving gifts to friends and family is a long honored tradition, giving is not so much the lesson of Christmas as is receiving. When we recognize that Christmas is not a consumer holiday, but rather a Christian Holy Day, we realize that the greatest gift of all is from God. Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, the baby in the manger, Jesus Christ, came that we might receive Him. But, as we know, there was no room for him at the inn. This points us again to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can look to her example to see how to receive him. By her fiat, her "yes," Mary received the Lord and gave birth to the savior of mankind. Thus, Mary is Mother of God and Mother of the Church as she is the ultimate model and guide for the Christian who would receive the Word of God.

We are told in John's Gospel that "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God..." (1:11-12). This Christmas, let us remember that the most important thing we can do is open our hearts like the Blessed Mother and receive Jesus Christ into our lives. If we learn from Mary to receive in this way, we too will be able to give true gifts of ourselves at Christmas and throughout the year.

God bless you and your families this Christmas! Vivat Jesus!

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Faithful Friars
Rev. James Sidoti
Rev. Dennis Nikolic
Faithful Navigator
Burt Struble
Faithful Captain
Carl Williams
Faithful Pilot
Mike Biondi
Faithful Admiral
Matt Ening
Faithful Bursar
Mike Cummings
Faithful Inner Sentinal
Brian Ogden
Faithful Outer Sentinal
Randy Krause
Trustees
John O'Connor
Steve Malieke
Joe Hartmann
Color Corp. Commander
Joe Hartmann
744-3795



Chaplains' Corner

Fr. Dennis Nikolic



Fr. James Sidotti

My Dear Brothers,

Happy New Year! January brings for us a new beginning and a new opportunity to do better. As Knights we are called to defend the Church founded by Christ and entrusted to St. Peter. January 18th begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was initiated in 1908 by the Reverend Paul Wattson, co-founder of the Society of the Atonement. The first practical result of the observance of the Church Unity Octave was the reception of the Society of the Atonement into the Catholic Church in 1910. The saintly Pope Pius X blessed and promoted the week of prayer for Christian Unity with the support of many American bishops including New York's Archbishop John Cardinal Farley in 1909. In 1916 Pope Benedict XV extended the observance of the week of prayer to the Universal Church. In 1921 the bishops of the United States agreed to unanimously celebrate the week of prayer in all American Dioceses.

Throughout the years the observance of a week of prayer has changed, in accordance with developments in the ecumenical movement: the universal week of prayer advocated by Abbe Paul Couturier in Lyon, France in the 1930's; the formation of the World Council of Churches in 1948; the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism in 1964; and the formation of the Joint Working Group between the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. A world observance, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an important expression of ecumenical activity at the local level. The theme and text for each year's observance of the Week of Prayer are chosen and prepared by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and representatives of the World Council of Churches. This year's theme and scripture for the Week of Prayer 2004 is taken from the 14th Chapter of John's Gospel: ...My peace I give you... not as the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled... (John 14:23-31)

Let us therefore join in prayer that we may one day be reunited with our separated brothers and sisters who share our belief in Christ Jesus. Let us pray that the spread of the Gospel message throughout the world will bring about converts to Jesus and his Holy Church. The Church has suggested the following daily intentions, which we might pray for during the week of prayer for Christian Unity:

January 18 – We pray for the return of all the “other sheep” of the one fold of Peter, the Vicar of Christ, the one shepherd.

January 19 – We pray for the return of our Orthodox Churches to Communion with the Holy Father.

January 20 – We pray for the Anglican Church's submission to the authority of the Vicar of Christ

January 21 – We pray that the Lutherans and all other Protestants of the world may find their way back to the Holy Church of Christ.

January 22 – We pray for all Christians in America that they may become one in union with the Holy Father

January 23 – We pray for the return of all lapsed Catholics, that they may practice their faith again

January 24 – We pray for the conversion of all non Catholics and for the missionary efforts of the Church, that the Gospel message may be spread throughout the world.

May God bless us ... that we may all be one.



NYS Council Briefing

Thomas E. Dwyer
State Deputy



On March 30th 2004, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, the New York State Council, Knights of Columbus will sponsor its second Annual Prayer Rally in Albany, New York.

The theme of our rally will once again be,

God, Country and Family

The key issues will be Life, School Vouchers and Catholic Health Care.

We come to Albany, as Catholic American Citizens, loyal to our Church, and its faith-based teachings. We come as Catholic American Citizens, loyal to our great country, our state and the democratic system, which is supposed to guarantee the rights and freedom of all citizens equally and without prejudice or malice.

It is our intention that through, our prayer, our presence and our united petition, that we might impress upon our Governor and legislators the growing sense of futility, abandonment and disenfranchisement which we feel, when it comes to fair, just, politically impartial and unbiased discussion of those issues and the final enactment of laws which are critical to the welfare of our families and our freedom to practice our faith without government interference and laws which force us to violate our faith based teachings and beliefs.

We come to Albany to pray and speak for thousands of other loyal catholic citizens who are unable to come and whose collective voices are being shut-out or ignored in the passage of laws which cater to the demands of rich, forceful, anti-catholic lobbying groups and power-brokers.

We invite, **ALL** Catholics, who feel that the politically correct, anti-family, anti-catholic bias, which permeates and dominates the mindset and actions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our government is wrong and must change. We invite you to join the NYS Knights of Columbus and our families, in prayer at the Capitol and stand-up and speak-up for God, Country and Family values and for laws which recognize, strengthen and protect each equally.

Rain, snow or shine, we will be there to fight for our rights as proud Catholic American citizens. Please join us, it is a sacrifice, but,

If we do not speak-up for our rights today, we will one day find, that we have no rights to speak-up for.

For all your insurance needs, contact your Knights of Columbus insurance man Rick Malick, Jr. [today! 986-1161](tel:986-1161)