



# THE Heartbeat



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CHAPTER 4, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3, DECEMBER 2019

## CHAPTER EVENTS

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>January 2020</b>				
1/23/20	Thursday	7:30 pm	Chapter Meeting	South Plainfield Council #6203 334 Hamilton Blvd. South Plainfield, NJ
<b>March 2020</b>				
3/26/20	Thursday	7:30 pm	Chapter Meeting	Blessed Sacrament Council #5959 1890 Washington Valley Rd. Martinsville, N.J.
<b>May 2020</b>				
6/6/2020	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Pride in Priests Dinner	<i>The Imperia</i> 1714 Easton Ave. Somerset, NJ
6/15-16	Fri-Sat	NA	NJ State Convention	Wildwood, NJ



**We Wish You a  
Holy and Blessed  
Christmas**

## Chapter Officers

Position	Member	Phone	E-mail
State Officer	Vinnie Tavormina, SD	609-642-6604	vtavormina@hotmail.com
Chaplain	Fr. William Smith	732-828-1400	frsmith_kofc_tettes@yahoo.com
President	Joseph L. Sabella	732- 763-4758	joesabella@verizon.net
Vice-President	Francis A. Rees	732-828-2942	frees814@gmail.com
Secretary	Edward Schilke	732-560-0569	eschilke@gmail.com
Treasurer	Scott Minnihan	732-356-6660	s_minnihan@yahoo.com

## Chapter Committees

Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Gray	908-647-5983	junegray3@yahoo.com
Ronald McDonald House	Dave Pinto John Bauer Stan Hubbard	732-672-3811 732-236-4149	pintodaj@optonline.net jabauer@optonline.net stanahu@aol.com
Shoulder to Shoulder	Frank Rees	732-828-2942	frees814@gmail.com
Visitation	Bill Hoffman	908-236-8189	dollarbill31@comcast.net
Ultrasound initiative	Stan Hubbard	908-420-2124	stanahu@aol.com
Pride in Priests Dinner	Frank Rees	732-828-2942	frees814@gmail.com
Convention Party	Bill Herring/Bill Hoffman	732-512-8825	debill99@verizon.net
Right to Life	Bob Keeling	NA	rkeeling@embarqmail.com
Rutgers Catholic Center	Dave Pinto	732-672-3811	pintodaj@optonline.net
Veteran's Affairs	Bill Hoffman	908-236-8189	dollarbill31@comcast.net
Lyons	Ed Shellman	908-850-0536	eshellman@comcast.net
Seminarians	Robert Gray	908-647-5983	junegray3@yahoo.com
Chapter Audit	Bob Keeling	NA	rkeeling@embarqmail.com

## District Deputies

District 61	Dave Pinto	732-672-3811	pintodaj@optonline.net
District 62	Ricardo Rivera	NA	rrh332004@yahoo.com
District 63	Joseph Charmello	732-236-8515	jac910@comcast.net
District 64	Bob Gray	908-647-5983	junegray3@yahoo.com
District 65	John Rossi	NA	jjrossi@comcast.net
District 66	Art Troccoli	732-259-9424	artroccoli58@gmail.com
District 67	Dan Murphy	908-635-4120	danmurf@comcast.com
District 68	Ed Suhy	908-496-8449	ed@edstravel.com
District 69	Gerard D'Ambrosio	732-679-2230	gdambrosiokoc7424@gmail.com
District 70	Andrew Ghapp	732-416-6959	goldbrdg@aol.com
District 71	Ken Smetana	848-229-4397	smetana.kenneth@yahoo.net

### NEW JERSEY STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE



Brothers,  
I hope you all had a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving and were able to spend quality time with your families.

Every day, I get a COH (Circle of Honor) report from our Regional Growth Director, Ralph Rossi. I am very happy to tell you that, despite a very rough July and August, New Jersey has bounced back in a big way and has been steadily making up ground. If we continue on this trajectory, we will hit our membership goal. And, that is due to the efforts of

all of you. Thank you for your hard work!

I just recently returned from our Mid-term State Deputy's meeting in Orlando, where Supreme packed a lot of information into one short weekend. The most exciting news is that beginning on or about January 1st, the First, Second, and Third Degrees will be combined into ONE Degree. This will eliminate 2 big problems we now have. First, right now, a 1st Degree member has no real incentive to take his 2nd and 3rd Degrees, unless he wants to become an officer. And, when was the last time you heard someone say, "Hey, how can I become an Officer of my Council?" Now, in less than an hour, a candidate becomes a full 3rd Degree Knight. Second, and just as important, if not, more so, we will have more members ready to go to the Patriotic Degree, and sooner, if they so desire. I am not going to go into detail. If you want to hear all the details, make sure your Council sends the Grand Knight, or another Officer, to the Midterm Grand Knight's meeting next month.

Speaking of the Midterm meetings, please watch your emails (*Grand Knights*) for the invite and please respond on time. All 3 sessions will be listed. Metuchen, along with Patterson, will have there's on 1/4 in Basking Ridge. But, if you can't make that one, you have the option of going to one of the other 2. But, again, we need to know in a timely manner for the head count.

On behalf of Tamara and I, we want to wish you, and your families, a very Merry and Blessed Christmas, and a New Year filled with Peace, Happiness, Health and Joy. And always remember why we celebrate Christmas and what Jesus' birth means to us all.

**Vivat Jesus**  
**Vinnie Tavormina**  
**State Deputy**

## CHAPLAIN'S CHAT



But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

This is Christmas for you. It does not happen only once a year, but it is a reminder that beyond all of your personal needs and immediate difficulties, **you have a greater mission.** And as in the life of Jesus, you must come to find this. You must feel it and allow it to emerge. You must recognize that alone you cannot fulfill it because it is not for you alone.

You will wander in the desert, you will experience the temptations of the world, and you will feel the conflict between this greater emerging part of yourself and your personal wishes, preferences and fears. For, like Jesus, **you must allow this greater power and greater purpose to eclipse your life,** to envelop your life and to reorganize and redirect your life. This is Christmas.

The gospels of Luke and Matthew describe Jesus as being born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary. In Luke, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, and Jesus is born there and laid in a manger. Angels proclaimed him a savior for all people, and shepherds came to adore him.

Matthew adds that the magi follow a star to Bethlehem to bring gifts to Jesus, born the king of the Jews. King Herod orders the massacre of all the boys less than two years old in

Bethlehem, but the family flees to Egypt and later returns to Nazareth.

Christmas Day (inclusive of its vigil, Christmas Eve), is a Festival in the Lutheran Churches, a holy day of obligation in the Roman Catholic Church, and a Principal Feast of the Anglican Communion. Other Christian denominations do not rank their feast days but nevertheless place importance on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day, as with other Christian feasts like Easter, Ascension Day, and Pentecost. As such, for Christians, attending a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day church service plays an important part in the recognition of the Christmas season. Christmas, along with Easter, is the period of highest annual church attendance.

The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (*1 John 4:8*). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love.

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, the birth of Jesus Christ is "good news." Good news is meant to be celebrated. In fact, the angel said the news of Jesus' birth would cause "great joy" and would be "for all the people"—the joyful celebration would be universal. People

around the globe would be glad for this occasion.

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, "A Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." The three titles the angel applies to Jesus are important. Jesus is the Savior who delivers us from sin and death (*Matthew 1:21*). He is the human Messiah (or Christ) who fulfills the Law and the Prophets, showing that God is faithful (*see Matthew 5:17*). And He is the divine Lord who has entered our world: the Almighty has taken on human flesh; God and man have been fused together in an indivisible, eternal bond; God is truly with us (*see Matthew 1:23*).

In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate the Savior, because we needed deliverance. We celebrate the Christ in whom all of God's promises are "Yes" and "Amen" (*2 Corinthians 1:20*). We celebrate the Lord who in humility took on "the very nature of a servant" for our sakes (*see Philippians 2:6-8*).

We celebrate Christmas with gift-giving because of the "incredible gift" that God gave to us (*2 Corinthians 9:15*). We celebrate Christmas by stringing lights because the Light of the world has come to us (*John 1:4; Isaiah 9:2*). We celebrate Christmas with carols and choirs because they are expressive of joy and follow the examples of Mary and Zacharias and Simeon and the angels, all of whom extolled the Lord in poetry (*Luke 1-2*). We celebrate Christmas by decorating evergreen trees with stars and angels and tinsel because of the eternal life Jesus brings (*John 4:14*) and stars and angels and beauty were all associated with Jesus' birth.

In celebrating Christmas we celebrate the love and condescension of God. In Texas in 1987, a toddler by the name of Jessica McClure fell into an eight-inch well casing. Down she

*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

went, becoming stuck twenty-two feet below ground. Once people discovered that "Baby Jessica" was in the well, they took immediate action. They didn't tell her to find a way to climb back up, and they didn't just shout happy thoughts to encourage her. No, they went down to where she was and got her. They did whatever it took. Rescuers worked nonstop for fifty-eight hours to free her.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve fell. Down they went, dragging all humanity with them into the darkness and death of sin. And what did God do? He did not tell us to find our own way out of the mess we were in, and He did more than shout down happy thoughts to us from heaven. No, He came down to where we were and got us. That's what Christmas is all about-God's coming down to rescue us, to do whatever it took to deliver us from sure death.

When even one person is in a life-threatening situation, we understand what has to be done. When God looked down at our sinful planet, He saw a whole world of people in mortal danger. We celebrate Christmas because it was at Christmastime that the Rescuer of all mankind came to save us from the hopeless situation we were in. God did not stay in heaven; He came down to where we are.

**Vivat Jesus**  
**Fr. Bill Smith**  
**Chapter 4 Chaplain**

### NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



My Worthy Brothers and Friends of Chapter 4,

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas knock-

ing on our door we want to be prepared for whatever God has installed for us. It is **NOT** all about the decorations, music, special foods, deserts and gifts. It is about the Christ Child being born. This is one of our Christians Holiest Day of the year. As Knights of Columbus we should be passing this message onto to our family and friends.

Advent is coming! It's time for us to start thinking about this great season of grace when we prepare for the coming of Christ.

Thanks to the Pastor of Our Lady of Peace Pastor, **Rev. Michael G. Krull** and **Father William Smith** concelebrants of Mass for Deceased member of the Knights of Columbus in Metuchen. **Our Chaplain Father Bill Smith** for his beautiful and touching homily which we will never forget. As usual we must not forget our **Senior Advisor John Amato, FDD** for participating as an Altar Server.

Thank you to the following: **Grand Knight Nicholas Arico** and Council #11378 for an outstanding meal, no one went home hungry. Oh, we cannot forget District **Deputy David Pinto** for his coordinating the evening. We cannot forget **Edward Schilke FDD, David Pinto DD, Robert Wright FDD, and Daniel Murphy, DD**, for the readings the names of our deceased members. Brothers **Robert Lynch, FDD** and **Joseph Charmello, DD** who did the first and second readings. **Robert DiBella, GK** and **Thomas D'Amico, FDD** presented the gifts.

Special thanks to Our Lady of Peace Choir Director **Joseph Suchocki** and the Choir for the beautiful music and hymns sung at our Mass. It was the first time we had an organist and choir opposed to prior years where we had a soloist who also was a highlight to the Mass. This change added luster and the theme for the night.

Now that the New Year is upon us we should continue on a straight and narrow path of submitting all the necessary councils/district forms on a timely basis.

Our focus for the New Year as usual is to recruit as many new members as possible. This can be accomplished by talking to friends, family, after Mass and any social function to spread the word about the great things the Knights of Columbus do for the communities as well as supporting our parish activities.

Please mark your calendars Wednesday, January 29, 2020. South Plainfield Council #6203, 334 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 at 7:30 pm **Bishop James Checchio** will be our guest speaker. Councils should bring a check to show their support for the Bishop's Charities.

Marie and I would like to wish you and yours a Blessed Merry Christmas, a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. God Bless.

**Fraternally,**  
**Joseph L. Sabella**  
**President.**

