



Knightly News

Knights of Columbus - Council #4239 - O'Fallon, Illinois

A Christmas Message from the Chaplain

A Christmas message is necessarily connected to an Advent message. In order for Christmas to be real, making a difference in our lives, we have to begin with Advent. If God is to be born in our lives, welcomed into our lives this year, something real and present, not just remembering two thousand years ago, then we have to begin with Advent.

Advent is the time to get in touch with any area where we need a savior. We have said so often, "the savior is born" that we no longer hear it. Each of us needs a savior in an area of our life that we cannot change on our own. We all have these areas, habits, addictions, compulsions, areas that, despite our best efforts, we simply cannot change. That is where we need a savior.

This Advent, while the rest of the world is already celebrating something that happened two thousand years ago, spend some time getting in touch with the areas where you need a savior. Then on Christmas, welcome Him. Then Christmas will be real. Then you and I can celebrate something happening now, Someone being born into our lives this year. Someone who can make a difference. Someone whose presence will bring peace, joy, and hope. Someone who can save us.

Msgr. William J. Hitpas
Chaplain

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Greetings from the Grand Knight

We have had a very busy fall with successful Youth and Children's programs - the Children's Halloween Party, the Youth Dance, and the Children's Christmas Party. The 25th Annual Turkey Trot led by PGK Richard "Foz" Ryan was another tremendous success this year. More than 250 runners participated and "Foz" received a special memento recognizing his 25 years at the helm of this event. Thank you again "Foz" for your contributions.

Our Memorial Mass was held in November where we remembered all our deceased brothers especially Delmar Deisen and Donald Johnson who died this past year. In December, Sister Judy McKenna led our annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mt. Calvary which was well attended. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Also in December, we held our annual Council Christmas Party attended by 120 Brother Knights, spouses, and friends. We were honored by the attendance of Father Bill and Father Jim. Immediate PGK Bill Musser, Sr. took this opportunity to recognize his Knight of the Year and Family of the Year. Bill selected PGK Richard "Foz" Ryan as Knight of the Year and the Ladies Auxiliary as Family of the Year. Congratulations "Foz" and Congratulations Ladies.

We must remain very committed to vocations. The annual Illinois Knights of Columbus Council Vocations raffle started this month. There is a separate article covering the raffle in the newsletter.

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Year-end Awards

Awards were presented at our annual Christmas Party to Foz Ryan as Knight of the Year and to the Ladies Auxiliary as Family of the Year for their outstanding contributions to our council this past fraternal year.

Foz is a PGK of our council and his continued genuine interest in the betterment of Council 4239 is noted and appreciated. Whenever charitable functions are involved, he is involved. Foz had a record number of runners participate in the past Turkey Trot and Kids Run. He has chaired these events for 25 consecutive years. He is our driving force not only behind our Kids Run and Turkey Trot, he also gathers volunteers for the Area 12 Special Olympics Field Day in May at SIUE and the Special Olympics bowling events held in October. Foz has raised more than \$130,000 in these 25 years, which we have proudly donated to Area 12 Special Olympics. With pleasure I selected Foz as the Knight of the Year.

The Ladies were recognized and received the Family of the Year award for their continued volunteer support with our bingo, the God's Special Children Golf Tournament, the Kids Run and the Turkey Trot, the Tootsie Roll drive, the Fiddle Contest, Special Olympics, the Easter Egg Hunt and the family picnic. Their involvement in Parish Life is also noted as they serve as Eucharistic Ministers, take communion to shut-ins, sing in the choir and are active in the Altar Sodality. They help maintain the area around the Monument to the Unborn in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. The Ladies Auxiliary is a very important family to our council and they are very deserving of the Family of the Year award.

Congratulation to Foz and to the Ladies.

PGK Bill Musser Sr.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary was awarded the "Family of the Year" Award at the men's Christmas party. PGK Bill Musser, Sr. surprised everyone when he announced the recipient. He called "everyone from this family to come up," and we responded with a large group of happy ladies. Thank you for this wonderful award! We are happy to assist the men with their charitable works. For those who have not seen the plaque we received, it is engraved, "Family of the Year Award presented to the family of The Ladies Auxiliary Council 4239 who have served as an inspiration to our parishes, community, and council by supporting and strengthening Christian Family Life."

We would like to invite all Catholic ladies over 18 years of age to join us to grow in the next years. Our meetings are the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the hall.

Our thanks to Margarita Crupe and her committee for a wonderful Christmas party last week. We enjoyed appetizers and desserts, a fun evening of bunco with lots of laughs, and of course the company of good friends. We donated \$500 this Christmas to buy gifts for two families. Thanks to Debbie Hoher and her committee who shopped and wrapped the gifts, and bought the food to give. We also baked cookies for the troops in Iraq and donated canned goods to the pantry.

Have you seen the improvements in the ladies' room downstairs? Thanks to Gina Stroh and her committee for all their time and efforts.

A group of ladies got together one morning and painted the nativity set out front. I have heard many positive comments from people who are happy to see our display outside. Thanks to the men who installed it for us!

Our next meeting is Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.. Debbie Schachner will be our guest speaker and she will tell us about her recent experiences in Kenya. Hope to see many of you. Happy New Year to all!

Alice McIntosh
President

Knights in Shining Armor Award

Getting new members active in the Knights of Columbus is the concept behind the Shining Armor Award. Recruiting new members into our Council is an accomplishment, but having them energetic and active is vital to the existence of Knights.

Having our new and younger members take active roles as early as possible opens up many more avenues for our Council and increases our chances of success. Also, these active members will bring a substantial advantage to our recruiting process.

The Shining Armor Award is given to men who exemplify the characteristics of a Knight: faith, dedication, and camaraderie. Keep in mind that the main focus of the program is to get new members actively involved within our Council from the very beginning. A Knight in his first year may qualify for the Shining Armor Award by:

- Being involved in at least three council service programs.
- Attending at least three business meetings.
- Receiving their Second and Third degrees.
- Meeting with our council's insurance representative.
- Recruiting at least one new member.

This program was introduced in the 2004-2005 fraternal year and our council would love to submit several new members' names to state who qualify for this award. Do you have what it takes to represent our council?

Contact Craig Halpin for more details on how you can kick-start your Knighthood.

Trivia Night to be held Feb. 11

Gather your friends and family now for the second annual "Sweethearts Trivia Knight", being held on Friday, Feb. 11, 2005. Tables can be built using 6-8 players at \$10 per person. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place with attendance prizes drawn throughout the night in addition to a 50/50 raffle. Last year's event had 22 tables and netted close to \$1,000 for the Building Fund. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. with the game beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Reservations can be made by calling Mike Stock at 235-5627 or Craig Halpin at 628-1077.

Church Activities

The O'Fallon Knights of Columbus Council 4239 and the Ladies Auxiliary held the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Monument to the Unborn on Dec. 4 at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Sr. Judy led the prayer service for the gathering of 30 Knights, Ladies and parishioners. Please visit the Monument to the Unborn at the cemetery. A special thanks to the Squires for the continued maintenance they perform on the monument area.

Wayne Portell
Church Activities Director

**BINGO every Sunday night
beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall**

Annual Vocations Raffle

The 2004-2005 Knights of Columbus Illinois State Council Vocation Support Raffle ticket booklets have been mailed to each of you. Specific instructions were included. As in the past, you received two booklets each containing 15 tickets. When you sell all 15 tickets per booklet at \$1.00 each, you will return \$12.00 to the Council and can keep the remaining \$3.00.

Please support this most worthwhile effort. The monies we collect allow us to support our seminarians in the Belleville Diocese.

David Handel
Grand Knight

Your Business Belongs Here

Do you know that the Knights of Columbus can offer IRA's and Keogh Plans? Do you know enough about them to decide whether or not they fit into your financial picture? I would like you to answer three questions:

Are you, like most people, interested in saving money?

Do you find it difficult to save under common saving methods?

Take the number of years you've been working times your average salary. What percentage of that income have you saved so far? How much will you save in the future?

If your answers bother you, I would like the chance to sit and talk with you (and your wife, of course) about our alternatives – annotated and tax-sheltered savings at highly competitive interest rates. You need not look anywhere else but your own Order for your financial needs.

Other institutions bombard you with ads for business at this time of year. We just keep doing what we have been doing since Father McGivney founded the Order – taking care of our members and their families.

Call me today at **667-0355**. I want to hear from you.

David T. Dempsey P.G.K.
Field Agent

Bingo

The Knights of Columbus Council 4239 every Sunday hosts Bingo beginning at 6:30 p.m. at its hall on Highway 50. We have a few very dedicated members who work almost every Sunday but we're still looking for a few good brothers to work at least one Sunday a month.

Please take a few hours of your time to help keep our Bingo successful. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!** **WE WILL TRAIN!** Contact PGK Joe Mehallow at 632-5457 or better yet, just show up and help out. There's always something for everyone to do.

Coming Events

<u>Dec. 4</u> Wreath Laying Ceremony Unborn Monument	<u>Jan. 6</u> Council Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Feb. 11</u> Trivia Night KC Hall
<u>Dec. 7</u> Squires Meeting KC Hall	<u>Jan. 20</u> Council Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Feb. 12</u> District Free Throw Contest - 9 a.m. St. Clare School Gym
<u>Dec. 9</u> Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party - 6 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Jan. 22</u> Major Degree - 12:30 p.m. Bethalto	<u>Feb. 17</u> Council Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall
<u>Dec. 11</u> Council Christmas Party - 6 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Jan. 26</u> Blood Drive - 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Mar. 2</u> Fourth Degree Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall
<u>Dec. 11</u> Children's Christmas Party 1 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Jan. 27</u> Ladies Auxiliary - 7:30 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Mar. 3</u> Council Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall
<u>Dec. 12</u> Major Degree - Noon Freeburg	<u>Feb. 2</u> Fourth Degree Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Mar. 12</u> Regional Free Throw Contest - 12:30 p.m. St. Clare School Gym
<u>Dec. 16</u> Council Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Feb. 3</u> Council Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Mar. 17</u> St. Patrick's Day Social KC Hall
<u>Jan. 5</u> Fourth Degree Meeting - 8 p.m. KC Hall	<u>Feb. 5</u> Council/Local Free Throw Contest St. Clare School Gym - 8:30 a.m.	<u>Mar. 25</u> Blood Drive - 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. KC Hall

Notice to All Brother Knights

Brother Knights,

At our Dec. 16, 2004 meeting, a motion was made to transfer \$5,000 from the council general fund to the Columbus Club, Inc. for the purpose of building maintenance, debt retirement, or other such expenditures deemed necessary by the Columbus Club Board. This notice is in accordance with our Knights of Columbus Council 4239 by-laws and a final vote will be taken at the Jan. 6, 2005 business meeting. If you wish to vote on this matter, please attend.

David Handel
Grand Knight

Greetings, continued from Page 1

As we approach Christmas, let us seriously reflect on the many blessings we have as individuals, as families, as Knights of Columbus, and as citizens of this great, free nation that we live in. And as we give thanks during this holiday season, please remember and pray for our women and men in uniform who are preserving our freedom, many who are in harms way serving around the world.

Thank you for all you do in our church, community, council, family and youth endeavors. God Bless You. Wishing you a holy and blessed Christmas and best in the New Year.

Fraternally yours,
David Handel
Grand Knight

O'Fallon Knightly News
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Inside Guard
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Trustee
Trustee
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Surge Directors

Council
Community

Family
Church
Youth

Msgr. William J. Hitpas 632-1797
David P. Handel 632-5073
James A. Averkamp 628-9258
Eugene A. Bringaze III 234-9166
John R. Bechtold 624-6227
Russell V. Thoman Jr. 624-6420
Michael J. Tiernan 628-1859
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Craig A. Halpin 628-8060
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