

Ragan Report



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Grand Knight Report...

I did some research about the month of December in the Catholic Church beginning with the season of Advent and I found a number of interesting things that I'll share with you. December marks the beginning of the new year in the Catholic Church, the new Liturgical year that is, with the season of Advent. Advent is a period beginning with the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) and embracing four Sundays. This year Advent begins on December 1. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at

Christmas, and to His Second Coming at the end of time. During the Advent season we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the feast of St. Lucy and Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete translated means Rejoice and on that Sunday the penitential exercises suitable to the spirit of Advent are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended. At the end of December on the first day of January we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary. The Solemnity of Mary is a liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary honoring her divine motherhood to Jesus Christ.

Christmas is the day we cele-

brate the Birth of Our Lord and for many, ends the so-called Christmas season. However, Christmas Day is only the first day of Christmas in the Catholic Church. The period of feasting continues until Epiphany, the 12th day after Christmas, and the Christmas season proper continues until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)--February 2--a full 40 days after Christmas. What is the Presentation? According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40th day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:24) in the temple (thus the "presentation" of the child). On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified (thus the "purification").

The month of December is filled with tradition leading up to Christmas day. Some families will make Christmas wreaths, some will assemble a Jesse tree, and others will

set up the Nativity scene. December should be a month of preparation and prayer in advance of the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord unlike black Friday and the materialism it fosters.

Our Council too has a few traditions as well beginning with the Senior's Dinner, and our Light Up For Christ Ceremony. The Isabella's host their annual Christmas Party and Santa visits the kids at their Kids Christmas Party. We hope that you or your family can attend some of our traditional events. Please check the events calendar on this Ragan Report for the times and dates of these events.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus,

GK - John Wesner

First Degree

Our Council held a 1st Degree on November 26 for two new members. Exemplified were Fr. Ronald Wearsch and Jason Scott both from St. Joseph's Parish. Fr. Wearsch, of course, is the Pastor at St. Joe's. If you should see Fr. Wearsch or Jason in the near future, congratulate them on joining the Knights of Columbus and our Council.

Senior's Dinner

The Council again hosted its annual Senior's Dinner on Sunday, December 1st at Fr Ragan Hall. Approximately 260 seniors enjoyed a meal provided by our Council and chaired by PGK Vince Gargaro with ample help from his family and Brothers and Ladies of our Council. All who attended enjoyed the meal and the company of old friends.



PGK Vince Gargaro and his wife Linda pause for a photo with their son Vinnie and PGK Joe Greiner



Isabella News



There will be no Isabella meeting in December due to having the Christmas Party which is open to the public. The January meeting will be Tuesday the 14th at 7:00. There will not be a speaker but we will have a pizza party and perhaps some other entertainment. At our February 11th meeting our speaker will be Sister Mary Berrington from Blessing House. Any Catholic woman is invited to attend and perhaps join as a member.

Annual Turkey Raffle

On Thursday, November 21, our Council held its annual Turkey Raffle at our Hall. The attendance this year was about the same as last year but the revenue generated this year was double that of last year. Quite a few Brothers and Ladies of the Isabella helped at this year's event and the GK wishes to thank all who helped make this year's Raffle a success.

Council Day of Recollection

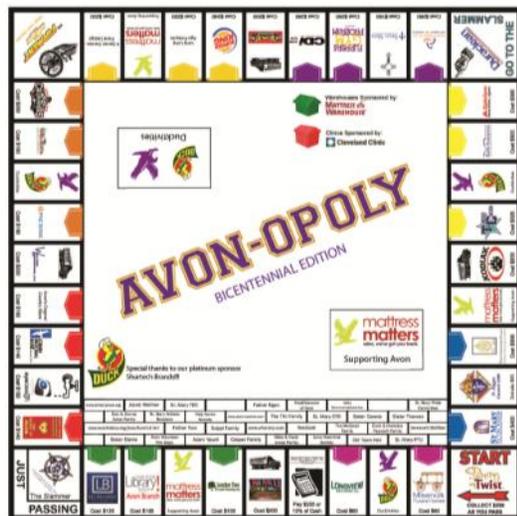
On Saturday November 9th, Brothers of our Council (see picture below) attended a Day of Recollection at Benedictine High School that was led by our Chaplain Fr. Gerard Gonda. The picture was taken after reciting the last two decades of the Rosary at the Grotto of Our Blessed Mother. We listened to Father speak about the Communion of Saints and about Purgatory and learned that although we should pray for those who have gone before us, that we can also pray for their help for those of us on earth.



Included in the Day of Recollection was a trip to St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland to view this marvelous historic church. We were privileged to touch and kiss the miter of Blessed Pope John Paul II, the miter he used when he was a Bishop in Poland that may soon become a Relic. Our day ended with a chance to go to Confession and the attend Mass celebrated by Fr. Gonda. What a spiritual and rewarding day it was.

Avon-opoly is here!

Avon-opoly: Bicentennial Edition is a board game (similar to that other -opoly game) celebrating 200 years of Avon and featuring all Avon-area businesses and organizations, **including our very own K of C Fr. Ragan Council!** Land on some of your favorite places around town, and support Avon St. Mary at the same time. Pick up what is bound to be the most unique gift given to current and former Avon residents this Christmas, or think ahead for your favorite 2014 graduate! Games are priced at \$25 each, with all proceeds going directly to St. Mary Church and School. To order a copy and arrange pick-up, e-mail avonopoly@yahoo.com or call Christine at 440.773.0848. Games are also available at a number of locations and events around Avon, which are listed at www.facebook.com/avonopoly. Thanks for supporting St. Mary!



Philippine Relief Efforts

Knights asked to respond with help for our Brother Knights affected by Typhoon Haiyan

“When Father McGivney founded this organization in 1882, he did so with the intention of helping those most in need,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Today we are happy to continue this legacy in numerous ways through our works of charity. But we honor this vision in a special way with our ministry to those affected by disaster. When our neighbors are left with nothing, Knights are among the first to rush in and help them get back on their feet. With Typhoon Haiyan striking the Philippines, the Supreme Council has approved \$250,000 for humanitarian relief. Knights and their families throughout the Order are urged to remember in their prayers all



the people affected by the massive storm.”

The Knights of Columbus Relief Fund is used to support the local work of our Knights of Columbus councils through their disaster response efforts in coordination with emergency agencies and first responders.

Click on the Knights of Columbus Charities logo on the Fr. Ragan website “Welcome Page” to donate to the Philippine relief effort.

Christmas Fantasy Dinner & Dance

Saturday, December 14

K of C Hall, 1783 Moore Road
Avon (next to BJs)

6:00 pm Appetizers | 7:15 pm Dinner

Catered by
Tom’s Country Place

\$21 per person,
BYOB, wash provided

Dance to the Music
of John Kowalski

Paid reservations by
December 5

You may bring a new unwrapped toy to be donated to an area shelter.

For tickets, call Pat 440-933-8986 or Bobbie 440-934-4053



Sponsored by the Isabella Guild
Knights of Columbus, Fr. Ragan Council #3269



Parish / Local Events

Dec 15th St. Raphael (Bay Village) - Cluster Communal Penance Service at 6:30PM

Surge... With Service

Together as Knights we are a “**Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization.**” This theme permeates the Knights of Columbus Service Program which promotes activities in the areas of Church, community, council, family, culture of life and youth.

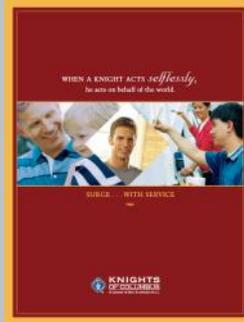
Each month the Ragan Report will highlight a collection of activity ideas in one of the six program areas. Supreme encourages each council to evaluate the needs of their community and determine which programs and activities are best.

Listed below are program and activity ideas under the Church category...

EVANGELIZATION

The lay apostolate is another vital area of Church support especially suited to the Knights of Columbus. There are many ways for Knights to become effectively involved in evangelization. Councils can:

- Recognize people receiving their First Communion, council and parish families baptizing children, and individuals receiving the sacrament of confirmation, with congratulations cards, certificates or special appreciation gifts. Use the generic certificate (#2898), available through the Supreme Council Supply Department, to design a certificate of congratulations.
- Support the parish religious education program by recruiting volunteers to enroll in CCD training courses and donate time as CCD teachers or substitutes. Raise funds to help the CCD program purchase visual aids. Help recruit discussion leaders. Offer volunteers to provide transportation and general assistance.
- The council chaplain can provide information concerning Catholic doctrine and liturgy to Knights and their families through a chaplain’s column in the council bulletin.
- Encourage council families to set aside time each week for Bible reading and discussions which foster quality family time.



THANK GOD IT'S FIRST FRIDAY - WEST

This inter-parish men’s group meets on First Friday for the celebration of the Eucharist, a luncheon and talk by a priest.

Upcoming luncheon:

DATE: Friday, January 3rd

SPEAKER: Rev. Fr. Thomas Dragga

LOCATION: St. Clarence Church, 30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

COST: \$10.00

TIME: Registration 11:30AM - 12:00PM; luncheon followed by talk, concluding with Mass.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: Call George at (440) 937-6606 by Tuesday, December 31st

Diocese Special Collection - Dec 7/8

Next weekend there will be a Diocese-wide collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please donate to those who have given a lifetime of service. Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Special envelopes for your donations are available at local churches. Visit www.retiredreligious.org for more information.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- The Annual **K of C wrestling Tournament** will begin on Friday Dec. 6 at Avon Lake High School. Helpers are welcome beginning at 4:45PM on Friday and 10:00AM on Saturday. Contact PGK Bob Cobos if willing to assist in any way.

CALENDAR



Thur, Dec 5	Business Meeting (7:30PM, Knights Hall)
Dec 6 / 7	K of C Wrestling Tournament (Avon Lake HS)
Sun, Dec 8	Light Up For Christ Ceremony (5:00PM, Knights Hall)
Sat, Dec 14	Isabella’s “Christmas Fantasy” Dinner/Dance (6:00PM)
Sun, Dec 15	Children’s Christmas Party (1:00PM, Knights Hall)
Thur, Dec 19	Social Meeting (7:30PM, Knights Hall)