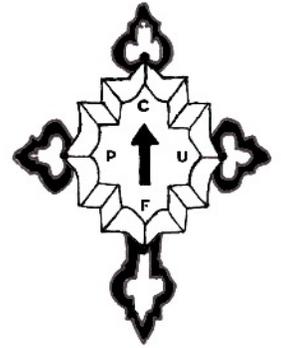




The Council Compass

Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444

Knights of Columbus



Editor: Paul Desroches

1899 - *Over 118 Years* - 2017

November 2017

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Important dates for the Christmas season:

- December 3: First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Liturgical Year.**
- December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Holy Day of Obligation)**
- December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve**
- December 25: The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)**
- December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
- January 1: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. (Not a Holy Day of Obligation, this year)**
- January 7: The Epiphany of Our Lord.**

ADVENT AND THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent is the season when Christians make spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Celebrating with an Advent wreath is a popular custom in many Catholic homes.

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services.

Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. This year it begins on December 3 and ends on Christmas Eve, December 24.

SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

(Continued on page 6)

Grand Knight's Thoughts

In my thoughts for this Council Compass, I congratulate our Council officers for their new term of office for the Columbian year of July 2017 to June 2018. The installation of officers was held on August 27, 2017, right after the Mass at 11 A.M., at Saint Frances of Assisi Church. This was officiated by Deacon David Nash, our District Deputy and Msgr. Peter Tran Van Phat, who filled in for Father William Damroth, our Chaplain who wasn't able to attend. Our officers are listed on the front page of this news letter.

On August 31, we conducted our Knights of Columbus wake service for Deacon John Buckley, a brother Knight. This was officiated by Deacon Thomas Nepl and myself. May he rest in peace. This was held at Brooks Funeral Home.

On a happy note, our Annual Founders Day Picnic on September 3, went very well even though it had to be held inside because it was a rainy day. The barbeque food was really good, and the other preparations worked well also. Thanks to our chairman, P.G.K. Dan Keenan.

On the day before the anniversary of the attack of 9/11, which was Sunday, September 10, our P.G.K. Greg Gaetano again organized our annual Blue Mass at Saint Patrick's Church, celebrated by Pastor Rev. Fernando Hernandez, our Associate Chaplain. Thank you Father Hernandez and P.G.K. Greg Gaetano for all your service and work on this Blue Mass anniversary!

On September 17, at O'Connor Hall, our Altar Server Appreciation Day went very well, thanks to our Co-chairmen, P.G.K. Rich Irons and P.G.K. Ken Ryan. Our Council again teamed up with Our Lady of the Rosary Council of Cornwall, N.Y. Altar Servers and some of their family members attended. All 59 Altar Servers were very happy to receive their Knights of Columbus Certificate of Appreciation from Pastor Rev. William Damroth, our Chaplain, or from Deacon Tony Ferraiuolo. We all very much liked the luncheon catered by Annie Ryan and her husband P.G.K. Ken Ryan. Thank you Father William Damroth for the use of O'Connor Hall.

Our next event took months to plan. It was our annual Columbus Day Ball held on October 8, at the Ramada Inn on Route 300 in the Town of Newburgh. If you haven't heard yet, Brother Knight Bill Kuntz, is the Knight of the Year, and he deserves this award and distinction. This committee was chaired by worthy Warden Vincent Calosso, members were P.G.K. Greg Gaetano, who was the Master of Ceremonies, Domingo Ampil, Bill Kuntz, Justine Kuntz and Joe Candela. The dinner was good as well as were the many door prizes. I was also told by some of the women that they enjoyed the music by D.J. Ming and wanted more people dancing. We had 101 people in attendance. The Treasure Chest raffle drawing was also

held this evening, resulting in : the owner of the first prize ticket drawn won \$2, 532.00, second prize ticket drawn won \$723.00, and the third prize ticket drawn won \$361.00. Congratulations to all of our winners!

We were surprised by the very sad news of the passing of brother Knight Adrian "Butch" Gokey, Sr.. Father John Vondras, Associate Chaplain, P.G.K., officiated at the wake service on October 13, at 6 P.M., at Brooks Funeral Home. Thank you Father Vondras.

In our Catholic Church, October is the month of the Holy Rosary, as well as Respect Life month. On Sunday, October 15, our Council and the Frances J. Gorman Assembly, 696, Fourth Degree Color Corps., attended the re-dedication of the Memorial of the Unborn, officiated by Rev. William Damroth, our Chaplain, at 3 P.M. At Calvary Cemetery, New Windsor. He led this prayer service with two Gospel readings and his sermon, consisting of his pulpit offer of assistance to any women needing counseling, assistance to help her to continue the life of her unborn baby. Twelve members attended with ten others observing.

We continue to accept religious articles at our council house. These are religious articles that we all receive in the mail from Catholic Orders and Ministries that we cannot afford to donate to. We have limited budgets. Please bring these items to our council house on the first or third Tuesday of the month before the 8 P.M. Meeting, which is open to all Knight members. I then take these items to the Saint Mary's food pantry outreach where they are given away in Catholic evangelism to the people who have come for their needed free food.

Based on our Knight of Columbus first principal of charity, we have the following Catholic Church ministries that need us to volunteer. They are St. Patrick's soup kitchen, Mrs. McKoy, 845-561-5023; St. Frances of Assisi food pantry, Paul Zalanowski, 845-561-6406; St. Mary's food pantry outreach, Marietta Allen, 845-566-1425. Please tell one of them how much time that you can donate.

I expect our next event to be held in November. It will be for our new membership recruitment drives to be held at one of our local Catholic Churches at all Masses.

In the month of December, we are planning two events. On Tuesday, December 5, at 7:15 P.M., our Mass and Christmas tree lighting and Christmas caroling with desert and refreshments at our council house. Family and friends are invited. It would be nice if we could bring a sharing desert dish or soft drink.

Also being planned is our Annual Council Family Christmas Party. The date of this event is Saturday, December 2.

God Bless and Vivat Jesus!
Grand Knight Joe Coyle

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLUMBUS DAY BALL



Re-dedication of the Memorial to the Unborn



Many thanks to James Peloso for providing the pictures

Christmas Traditions Around the World

Excerpted from an article by Sarah Toast

All over the world, Christmas celebrations reflect local culture and traditions. The festivities can be startlingly different from country to country, focusing on different aspects of the nativity story.

But whether you're celebrating Sheng Dan Jieh in China or awaiting Pere Noel in France, you're sharing in the wonder and magic of the Christmas season. Let's take a look at Christmas traditions in countries around the world, from Sweden to Australia, from England to China.

Australia

Australians live on the world's largest island, which is also the world's smallest continent. Most of Australia's immigrants came from England and Ireland, bringing their Christmas customs with them.

Australia is the Land Down Under, where the seasons are opposite to ours. When Australians celebrate Christmas on December 25, it is during summer vacation. Most of Australia is a hot, dry desert, known as the Outback. The grassy or marshy savannas are called the Bush. But most people in Australia live in the green coastal areas of the southwest.

The most popular event of the Christmas season is called Carols by Candlelight. People come together at night to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside. The stars shining above add to the sights and sounds of this wonderful outdoor concert.

Australian families love to do things outside. They love to swim, surf, sail, and ride bicycles. They like to grill meals outdoors on the barbecue, which they call the "barbie."

Families decorate their homes with ferns, palm leaves, and evergreens, along with the colorful flowers that bloom in summer called Christmas bush and Christmas bellflower. Some families put up a Christmas tree. Outdoors, nasturtiums, wisteria, and honeysuckle bloom.

Christmas festivities begin in late November, when schools and church groups present Nativity plays. They sing carols throughout the month of December.

On Christmas Eve, families attend church together. Some children expect Father Christmas to leave gifts, and others wait for Santa Claus to visit and deliver gifts.

After opening presents on Christmas morning, the family sits down to a breakfast of ham and eggs. Then the family goes to church again.

On Christmas Eve in families that observe Irish traditions, the father sets a large candle in a front window of the home to welcome Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus. The youngest child in the family lights the candle. The family goes to midnight mass and attends church on Christmas Day, as well. Afterwards there are parties and festive visits.

Christmas Day is when families and close friends gather together from all over Australia. The highlight of the day is the holiday midday dinner. Some families enjoy a traditional British Christmas dinner of roast turkey or ham and rich plum pudding doused in brandy and set aflame before it is brought to the table. The person who gets the favor baked inside will enjoy good luck all year round.

Other families head for the backyard barbie to grill their Christmas dinner in the sunshine. Many families even go to the beach or to the countryside and enjoy a picnic of cold turkey or ham and a salad. Father Christmas has been known to show up in shorts to greet children at the beach on Christmas!

The day after Christmas, December 26, is Boxing Day. Australians with British and Irish backgrounds leave tips for the grocer, postman, newspaper carrier, and others to thank them for their help in the past year.

New Year's Eve is always a special time, with dinners, dances, and parties. On Twelfth Night, January 6, there is one last party to end the Christmas season.

China

Many people give parties on Christmas Eve, and some people enjoy a big Christmas dinner at a restaurant. Shops sell plastic trees and Christmas decorations for everyone to enjoy, and Santa Claus is a popular good-luck figure.

The Christmas season is ushered in with fireworks. Jugglers and acrobats entertain, and people enjoy the merriment and feasting. In Hong Kong, which recently was restored to Chinese rule, Christmas Day is just one of seventeen public holidays.

At this time of year, people in Hong Kong also celebrate Ta Chiu, a festival of peace and renewal, by making offerings to saints and reading the names of everyone who lives in the area.

On Christmas Eve, Christian children in China hang up their muslin stockings that are specially made so Dun Che Lao Ren, or "Christmas Old Man," can fill them with wonderful gifts. Santa Claus may also be called Lan Khoong-Khoong, "Nice Old Father."

The Chinese lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, begins in late January or early February. The celebration lasts for three days. While not part of Christmas, the New Year is the most important celebration of the year for the Chinese people. People travel long distances to be with their families. They decorate their homes with brightly colored banners. These banners carry messages of good wishes for the coming year.

Many people exchange gifts at the New Year. Following tradition, very expensive, special presents are given only to close family members. Token gifts are given to friends and distant relations. Children especially enjoy their gifts of new shoes and hats.

People put on new clothes for the New Year celebration. They prepare many special holiday dishes, and families come together at one house to enjoy them. The younger sons of the household serve dinner to the head of the household.

For the first celebration, on New Year's Day, people offer rice, vegetables, tea, and wine to heaven and earth. They burn incense and candles to pay tribute to their ancestors and to all living members of the family.

Chinese families turn out to watch the spectacular New Year's fireworks displays and the exciting lion dance. Several performers dance inside an enormous costume. They make the "lion" walk, slither, glide, leap, and crouch along the street as it leads a colorful procession.

The greatest spectacle takes place at the Feast of the Lanterns, when everyone lights at least one lantern for the occasion. Other special events of the New Year include the Festival of the Dragons and the Fisherman's Festival.

Throughout the three days of New Year's celebrations, everyone speaks only cheerful words to each other so they will have good luck in the coming year.

England:

It is cold, wet, and foggy in England at Christmastime. Families welcome the warmth and cheer of a Yule log blazing on the hearth. They decorate their homes with holly, ivy, and other evergreens and hang a mistletoe "kissing bough."

Throughout the holidays, carolers go from house to house at twilight ringing handbells and singing Christmas songs. "The Holly and the Ivy" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" are English favorites. People give the carolers treats, such as little pies filled with nuts and dried fruits.

The day before Christmas is very busy for families in England. They wrap presents, bake cookies, and hang stockings over the fireplace. Then everyone gathers around the tree as someone tells the favorite story, "A Christmas Carol."

After hearing their favorite Christmas story, children write a letter to Father Christmas with their wishes. They toss their letter into the fire so their wishes can go up the chimney. After the children fall asleep on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas comes to visit. He wears a long, red robe, carries a sack of toys, and arrives on his sleigh pulled by reindeer. He fills the children's stockings with candies and small toys.

On Christmas Day, everyone sits down to the midday feast and finds a colorful Christmas cracker beside their dinner plate. A Christmas cracker is a paper-covered tube. When the end tabs are pulled, there is a loud crack. Out spills a paper hat to wear at dinner, small trinkets, and a riddle to read aloud to everyone at the table.

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The family enjoys a feast of turkey with chestnut stuffing, roast goose with currants, or roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Brussels sprouts are likely to be the vegetables. Best of all is the plum pudding topped with a sprig of holly. Brandy is poured over the plum pudding and set aflame. Then family members enjoy a dramatic show as it is carried into the dining room. Whoever finds the silver charm baked in their serving has good luck the following year. The wassail bowl, brimming with hot, spiced wine, tops off the day's feast. It is said that all quarrels stop when people drink wassail.

After dinner, the family gathers in the living room to listen to the Queen of England deliver a message over radio and television. At teatime in the late afternoon, the beautifully decorated Christmas cake is served.

The day after Christmas is called Boxing Day. This day has nothing to do with fighting. Long ago, people filled church alms boxes with donations for the poor. Then on December 26, the boxes were distributed. Now people often use this day to give small gifts of money to the mail carrier, news vendor, and others who have helped them during the year.

Beginning on Boxing Day, families can enjoy stage performances called pantomimes. This activity originally meant a play without words, or actors who mimed or entertained without speaking. Pantomime now refers to all kinds of plays performed during the Christmas season. Such familiar children's stories as "Cinderella" and "Peter Pan" delight young and old alike. In some towns, masked and costumed performers called mummers present plays or sing carols in the streets.

France:

Christmas in France is a family holiday. The celebrations begin on December 5, which is St. Nicholas Eve. It is a day for gift-giving between friends and relatives. On that cold night, children leave their shoes by the hearth so Pere Noel, or Father Christmas, will fill them with gifts.

Christmas Eve is the most special time in the French celebration of Christmas. Church bells ring and voices sing French carols, called noels.

The family fasts all day, then everyone but the youngest children goes to midnight mass. The churches and cathedrals are beautifully lit, and most display a lovely antique creche. Afterward, the family returns home to a nighttime feast that is called le reveillon. The menu is different in the various regions of France. In Paris, it might be oysters and pate, while in Brittany, the traditional midnight supper is buckwheat cakes and sour cream.

A few days before Christmas, the family sets up a nativity scene, called a creche, on a little platform in a corner of the living room. Some families also decorate a Christmas tree with colorful stars, lights, and tinsel, but the creche is much more important.

The tradition in Provence, in the south of France, is to include, along with the Holy Family, the Three Kings, the shepherds, and the animals, delightful little figures from village life dressed in old-fashioned costumes. These figures might include a village mayor, a peasant, a gypsy, a drummer boy, and other colorful characters. Another tradition in Provence is for people to dress as shepherds and take part in a procession that circles the local church.

To complete the elaborate creche in their home, children bring moss, stones, and evergreen branches for the finishing touches. When the candles are lit, the creche becomes the centerpiece of the Christmas celebration. The children gather around it to sing carols every night until Epiphany, on January 6.

Christmas plays and puppet shows are popular entertainments at Christmas, especially in Paris and Lyons. The shop windows of large department stores have wonderful displays of animated figures that families like to visit.

If any children did not leave their shoes out to be filled with gifts by Pere Noel on St. Nicholas Eve, they leave them out on Christmas Eve to be filled by Pere Noel or the Baby Jesus. Before going to bed, some families leave food and a candle burning, in case Mary passes by with the Christ Child. In homes that have a Christmas tree, Pere Noel hangs little toys, candies, and fruits on the tree's branches for the sleeping children.

On Christmas Day, the family goes to church again and then enjoys another abundant feast of wonderful dishes, ending with the traditional buche de Noel, a rich buttercream-filled cake shaped and frosted to look like a Yule log.

On New Year's, grown-ups visit their friends to exchange gifts with them and enjoy yet more feasting at the New Year's reveillon. The family gathers together again for a final feast on Epiphany on January 6. They eat a special flat pastry, a galette, that has a tiny old-fashioned shoe, a very little china doll, or a bean baked in it. Whoever finds the prize in their serving gets to be King or Queen for the day. As church bells ring, the celebration of the Christmas season comes to an end.

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Germany:

German families prepare for Christmas throughout cold December. Four Sundays before Christmas, they make an Advent wreath of fir or pine branches with four colored candles. They light a candle on the wreath each Sunday, sing Christmas songs, and eat Christmas cookies. The children count the days until Christmas with an Advent calendar. Each day, they open a little numbered flap on the calendar to see the Christmas picture hidden there.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, homes are filled with the delightful smells of baking loaves of sweet bread, cakes filled with candied fruits, and spicy cookies called lebkuchen.

Bakery windows are filled with displays of lovely marzipan confections in the shape of fruits and animals. Best of all are the famous outdoor Christmas markets. The stalls overflow with all sorts of holiday toys, gifts, decorations, and delicacies.

Many German children write letters to St. Nicholas asking for presents. St. Nicholas Day is December 6. Other German children write their letters to the Christ Child. In some areas, the Christ Child brings gifts to children on St. Nicholas Eve and in other areas on Christmas Eve. He is dressed all in white, with golden wings and a golden crown.

Christmas Eve is the most important time of the Christmas season for families. Some even say it is a magical night when animals can speak. The wonderful tradition of the Christmas tree, which started in Germany, is the heart of the celebration. Grown-ups decorate the evergreen tree with beautiful ornaments of colored glass and carved wood, silver stars, and strings of lights. A golden angel is placed at the very top of the tree.

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Under the Christmas tree, the family arranges a manger scene to depict the stable that Jesus was born in. Parents may also pile presents from the Christ Child beneath the Christmas tree's richly decorated boughs. Just after dark, a bell rings, and the excited children run into the room to see the beautiful lighted tree in all its glory. The family members exchange gifts, recite poems, and sing Christmas carols. "Silent Night, Holy Night" is an old German favorite. Then everyone enjoys a Christmas feast of roast goose, turkey, or duck.

In some parts of Germany, families still follow an old tradition. The children leave their shoes outside the front door. These shoes are filled with carrots and hay to feed St. Nicholas' horse as he rides by. If the children were good all year, St. Nicholas leaves apples, nuts, and candy for them.

On Christmas Day the white candle of the Advent wreath is lit. This day is quietly focused on family. They attend church together, and then they eat a delicious Christmas dinner together.

But for the following Twelve Days of Christmas, people in some parts of Germany beat drums to drive off spirits. On Twelfth Night, or Epiphany, on January 6, boys dress up like the Three Kings who visited Baby Jesus in the manger so long ago. They carry a star on a pole and go through the town singing Christmas carols. Then the family puts away its Christmas decorations for another year, until December comes around again. Italy:

The Christmas season begins in Italy on the first Sunday of Advent, which is four Sundays before Christmas. In the cold winter weather of the northern mountains and in the mild weather of the south, Christmas fairs feature fireworks and bonfires along with holiday music. Families go to the Christmas markets to shop for gifts and new figures for the manger scene. Some families set up a Christmas tree and decorate it.

During novena, the nine days before and including Christmas Day, children go from house to house reciting Christmas verses for coins. The family sets up its presepio, or manger scene, on the first day of the novena. They gather before the presepio each morning or evening of novena to light candles and pray.

Some families put life-size figures of Mary and Joseph in their front yard. Both manger scenes and Christmas carols originated in Italy.

During this time, children write letters to their parents wishing them a merry Christmas, promising good behavior, and making a list of the gifts they hope to receive. The parents read these letters aloud at dinner. Then they toss them in the fireplace. The children chant to La Befana, the mythical Christmas witch, as their wishes go up the chimney.

When the first star appears in the evening sky on Christmas Eve, every family sets lighted candles in their windows to light the way for the Christ Child. They light candles around their presepio and pass the figure of the Baby Jesus from person to person, finally placing it tenderly in the manger. Then they enjoy a lavish meatless supper featuring fish or another type of seafood, vegetables, salads, antipasto, bread, pasta, and sweets. Later that night, everyone goes through the torch-lit streets on their way to Christmas Eve mass.

Christmas Day is reserved for church, family, and feasting. Some Italian children receive gifts from Baby Jesus or from Babbo Natale, as Father Christmas is called. Then everyone sits down to a big Christmas dinner. This often includes capon or another roasted meat. Pannetone, a yeast cake filled with fruit, and panforte, a dense honey cake spiced with cloves and cinnamon, are popular sweets, along with cassata, which includes ice cream and fruit.

New Year's Day is when friends get together and visit. It is also the day when Italians exchange gifts with each other. The children have to wait until January 6 to get their gifts from La Befana, whose name comes from the Italian word for Epiphany.

January 6 is also called Three Kings Day, because it is the day the Three Kings visited the Christ Child in Bethlehem long ago. The legend says that old Befana was too busy cleaning house to help the Wise Men. Now the aged wanderer flies through the air on her broomstick looking for the Christ Child on the eve of Epiphany. Children set out their shoes by the fireplace on that night, hoping for the gifts they asked for during novena. La Befana leaves candy and gifts for children that are good.

During the Christmas season, Italian families sing a special song called Shepherds' Carol in honor of the zampognari, or real shepherds who came to town at Advent and went from house-to-house playing bagpipes and singing songs about the birth of Jesus.

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Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14, NIV)

This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger:

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12, NIV)

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11, NIV)

The fourth and last purple candle, often called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13-14, NIV)

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow:

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18, NIV)

ADVENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks before Christmas is a great way for Christian families to keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

September 28, 2017
by Cardinal Timothy Dolan
The Rosary: an Effective Means of Evangelization

Where we begin in the whole sacred process of evangelization is very important!

Pope Francis has radiantly reminded us of this, hasn't he? It's not helpful to start with what the Church is against; it's not productive to begin with what's right or wrong. We'll get to that eventually. No, we start with the Person, the invitation, the message of Jesus! Then, everything else flows from this saving proclamation!

My friend, Father Bob Barron, one of the nation's premier evangelists today, puts it like this: if a foreign visitor asks you to explain the complicated game of baseball, you would hardly start with the "infield-fly rule"! No! You would first introduce him to the beauty, rhythm, and flow of the game! Father Barron suggests he would take him instead to Wrigley Field, gradually introduce him to the majesty of our national pastime, and then patiently explain the details of the game.

The same is true of the mystery of the faith. We begin with Jesus, with the story of salvation, with prayer, liturgy, community, and the beauty of the Church. Gradually we then get to faith, doctrine, morals, practice.

All of this leads me to the rosary. October, in our Catholic calendar, is dedicated to this simple prayer. Not only is the rosary a wonderful prayer, but an effective means of evangelization.

Think about it: if we know and pray the rosary, we are familiar with the story of the life of Jesus and Mary, the enchanting mysteries that are part of "the greatest story ever told."

And, we then know the most basic prayers of our tradition: the sign of the cross, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Glory be.

No wonder Pope Paul VI called the rosary "the school of the gospels"!

My two grandmothers loved the rosary. Lucille, my mom's mom, was a convert to the faith. She had a tough life, working hard to raise my mom and Aunt Lois after her husband left her for the drink. Her simple faith sustained her. Yet, she always felt—wrongly—she was unlettered in her adopted Catholic faith. She would describe herself inaccurately as a "dumb Catholic."

"Tim," she'd tell me, "I sure don't know much about the Church. I don't even know how to pray. But," she'd remark, grabbing the rosary from her bed stand (one of those "shine-in-the-dark" ones, the very one I still have and cherish), "I at least have the rosary. And,

when I pray it before I go to sleep, I feel close to Our Lord, I think of all He did for me, and I almost feel I'm holding on to Mary's hand and she's praying with me."

Not bad at all. That's what I mean about the basics of our faith. Nonnie, as I lovingly called her, probably couldn't talk that much about the Trinity or the more complex moral issues of her faith, but she sure loved Jesus, knew His life, death, and resurrection, and held fast to His Mother and His bride, the Church, as she struggled through each day.

What if all of our children knew and trusted the rosary? They'd at least comprehend the "mysteries" of the life and teaching of Jesus, and would recite by heart the great prayer of our tradition. I'd settle for that!

Last week, I had the honor of a private meeting with Pope Francis. There, on his desk, was his rosary, not as a paperweight, but, near at hand for prayer. As I left, he gave me one of his. When I asked his prayers specifically for Fred, my brother-in-law fighting cancer, and Father Fabian Lopez, one of our splendid young priests on a tough round three of cancer treatment, he gave me one for each of them.

This Holy Father realizes—no surprise!—that we've got a real winner in the rosary: a great prayer, an effective evangelizer.

A Blessed and very happy birthday to the following council members who will be celebrating their birthdays in the months of November, December and January:

11/01 Paul E. Vesely	11/02 Richard Clarino
11/07 Nicholas Cracolici	11/07 Robert Joy
11/07 Pasquale Mugnano	11/08 George Barnett Sr.
11/08 Steven Galick	11/08 Frank Guglieri
11/08 Germain La Pointe	11/10 Theodore Coughlin
11/11 James Nugent Jr.	11/20 Gerard Esposito
11/25 Frank Pennacchio	11/27 George Kingsley
11/28 Alan Paul	12/02 Paul Salanowski
12/05 Matthew Infante	12/11 Thomas McCullough
12/16 Henry Guiette	12/19 Deacon John Seymour
12/20 Deacon Lawrence Kawula	
12/21 Ike Broome	12/23 Deacon Leonard Farmer
12/26 Joseph Coyle G.K.	12/28 Joseph Hillman Jr.
12/29 Andrew Tsui	12/31 Stephen Browne
01/01 John DeLessio P.G.K.	01/01 Salvatore Foti
01/01 Edward Lastowski	01/02 Tony Granja
01/02 Ronald Lawyer	01/03 Rev. Samuel Taylor
01/04 Martin Frasco	01/07 John Conway
01/08 Robert Webber P.G.K.	01/09 Alfred Blanco
01/11 Joseph Candela II	01/13 Gerardo Figueroa
01/16 Ernest Bello	01/20 Edward Finn
01/24 David Maksomski	

Lift High the Cross

Annual Council Christmas Party

Saturday, December 2, 2017
from 2 - 6 P.M.

Dan Leghorn Fire Engine Company of
Orange Lake

Hot Buffet, DJ, lots of fun and Santa bringing
gifts to the children.

\$20 adults and children 12 and over; \$10
children 5 to 11; 4 and under are free.

Contact: John Delessio - 845-562-4963 or
Jude Martini - 845-566-0235

Council Mass and Christmas Tree Lighting

December 5, at 7:15 PM
At our Council house.
Mass at 7:15.

Empty Bowls Food Pantry Fund Raiser
Please bring a canned good for the St.
Francis of Assisi food pantry.

Soup dinner to follow Mass and ceremony.
Bring a desert to share

Contact PGK Ken Ryan (845) 565-8015 or Joe
Coyle (845) 561-7384

Calendar of Council Meetings

- 07 Nov: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
- 14 Nov: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
- 21 Nov: Social Meeting at 8 P.M.
- 28 Nov: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.
- 05 Dec: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
- 12 Dec: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
- 19 Dec: Social meeting at 8 P.M.
- 26 Dec: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.
- 02 Jan: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
- 09 Jan: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
- 16 Jan: Social meeting at 8 P.M.
- 23 Jan: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.
- 30 Jan: Corporation Meeting at 8 P.M.
- 06 Feb: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
- 13 Feb: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
- 20 Feb: Social meeting at 8 P.M.
- 27 Feb: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.

Note: The Rosary will be said before every regular
and social meeting at 7:30 PM

Council Memorial Mass

November 19, 11 AM Mass at St. Francis
of Assisi Church.

In honor of deceased Brother Knights,
William E. Kline, Marceliano Velez Jr.,
Deacon Dominick Casadone, Deacon
John Buckley and Adrian Gokey, Sr.

Save the Dates

February 19, 2018 - Clergy Brunch. Please join
us in thanking our priests for all they do.
Contact Greg Gaetano (845-629-2722)

March 18, 2018 - Communion Breakfast. Mass
at 11 A.M. At St. Frances of Assisi Church.
Breakfast following Mass at the Powelton
Club. Contacts: Joe Dennis (845)565-7646 or
Joe Coyle (845)561-7384.

St. Mary's Outreach

Volunteers are needed the third Thursday and
Friday of every month from 8 A.M. To 1 P.M.
Thursdays are set up days and Fridays are the
"giving" days. Report to Mannix Hall (The old St.
Mary's School next to St. Mary's parking lot.)
Call Marietta Allen at 845-566-1425

St. Francis of Assisi Church Outreach

Need volunteers on Friday and Saturday
mornings from 9 A.M. to Noon. Report to 145
Benkard Ave, Newburgh.
If you can help or have questions, please call
Linda or Paul at 845-234-8564..

Help Collect Box Tops for Education

We are asking all fellow Knights to help collect
"box tops for education". Just look for the symbol
below on almost any dry good that you get from the
store, clip it, and bring it in to the Council. We are
supporting the Nora Cronin
Academy with these donations.
For additional information contact
PGK Scott at 564-0339.

