



New York Knight Life

December 1, 2024 Vol. 1 Edition. 18 Official Newsletter for the New York State Knights of Columbus



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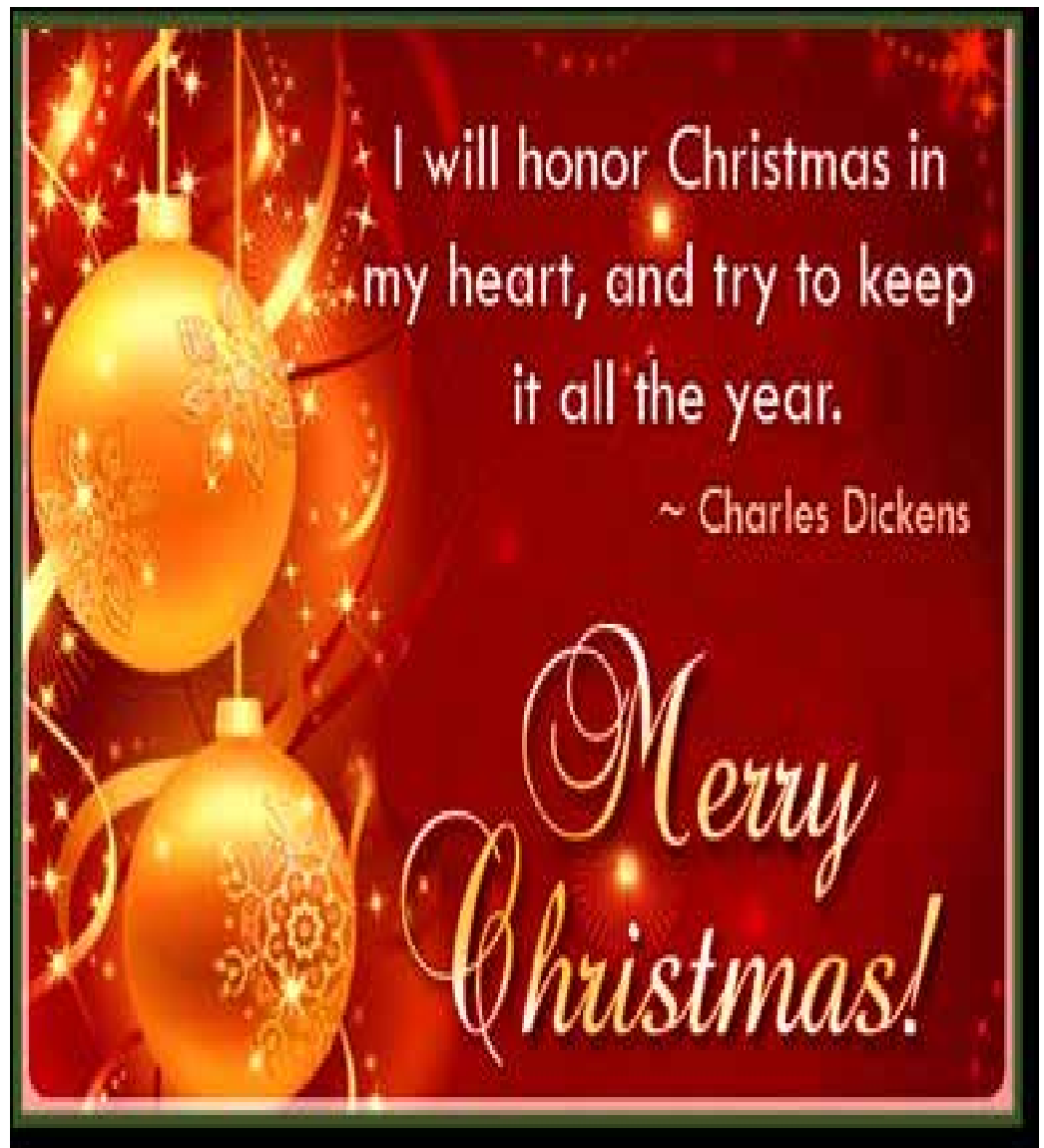
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Associate State Chaplain

Rev. Michael Johnson

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Rev. Edward Sheridan



Tell others about Knight Life... Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know they can become a member for free online at kofc.org/join. You can also share your questions, feedback and story ideas by emailing mb1122@msn.com

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State Deputy's Message

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2: 7 & 11



Dear Brother Knights,

In early November, I attended the State Deputies Mid-year meeting in Maryland. The Supreme Council always conducts these meetings in a very professional manner. Accordingly, we, State Deputies, always walk away with lots of instructions on membership and programs.

One particular session that I enjoy is the one on “**Christ Centered Leadership**”. At these sessions the instructor always has advice and examples of how our actions, (as leaders in our order) are destined to be beneficial if we act in a Christ-like manner. Since Advent begins on December 1, perhaps now is the time to ask ourselves: is our leadership based on Christ-like behavior? If you’re like most of us, the answer is probably “sometimes we do.....and sometimes we don’t”.

So, with these thoughts in minds, let us all do our best to exemplify our leadership skills in a Christ-like manner as often as we can. I’m confident your Christ-like behavior will lead to positive results. Remember, **this is a world that needs Christ more than ever. Yet realizes the need for Christ less than ever.** Therefore, let’s keep this Christ-like action with us for the Christmas season and beyond!

Also, this month we will be at Villa Roma to conduct the Mid-Year meeting of the District Deputies and to conduct our annual C&B Drawing. I am confident that the meeting will be productive and such progress will be reported by the District Deputies to their local councils at subsequent, local meetings.

As always, **keep up the good work. I am rooting for you!**

From my family to yours, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Friendship & Fraternity,
Anthony Ippolito
State Deputy



My Brother Knights,

As we approach the season of Advent we recognize that it is a time of anticipation. It is our Catholic understanding that it is twofold in its celebration. The first days remind us of the promise of the Messiah. From the earliest moments of humanity's existence man was aware of the fissure between God and the Creation. The faithful inspired by the Patriarchs and the Prophets remained true despite the passage of time to the Promise of a Messiah who would reconcile the People of God. The Scriptures of the days in the liturgy remind us of the fidelity of God's love and mercy despite the faults they might have in their weaknesses. The prophets help all us not only to recognize the coming of Jesus as our Savior but also that *He is coming again*.

The last days will assure us that we have more awaiting us than a great meal and many gifts. All of us have the opportunity to renew ourselves in our sacramental life especially by attending to the opportunities for penance. Recognizing how generous God and others have been to us, we should recognize the needs of others and be generous in our response.

As we enter this significant time let us pray for one another. I commit myself to all of you in prayer and seek your prayers for our Church and the many challenges it faces to evangelize the Creation.

Vivat Jesus,

Father Brian E. McWeeney D. Min(Prin)
Administrative State Chaplain

Dear Brothers,

This will be the second email in a continuing series regarding our goal of building a winning culture in the New York State Knights of Columbus. Today's subject will be on the aspect of... Passion - all great sports teams, organizations or companies have passion for what they do, whether it be on the playing field or in the corporate world. If you are to be successful in your endeavors, you need to have this attribute as well. If you are going to be a successful Grand Knight, it is imperative that you have passion for the job and your mission. It can drive and motivate you to pursue your goals with enthusiasm and dedication. And we all know that enthusiasm is contagious. Your brother Knights are far more likely to follow your lead if you are passionate about the mission, and prospective members are far more likely to join your council if you and your members are passionate and enthusiastic about your council and our Order. Passion provides you with the energy to sustain you on your journey to success. It will help drive you to your goals. It will make you more resilient when facing obstacles. I believe that if you are in the high position of Grand Knight, you have passion for our Order and our mission already. So, your main job will be to hand that passion onto your council and to prospective members so that they too will be passionate about our Order.



Do not hide your passion and enthusiasm! Project it with confidence! You will see positive changes in your council, and you will attract new members. Ask yourselves these questions - - Do you as Grand Knight openly share your passion with your council? - Are your members passionate about their work in our Order? - Does your council project that passion to outsiders & prospective members? Worthies, if the answer to the above questions is no, then go about making changes so your response will be yes! Remember our goals for this Columbian year - - Increase the number of Star Councils across NYS - Every council recruits a minimum of 2 members - NYS makes the Circle of Honor Building a winning culture, a culture that includes enthusiasm and passion, can go a long way towards achieving our goals brothers. Brothers, I'm happy to report that we are having a very strong November in membership. Remember, membership is the lifeblood of our Order, so always make it a priority. Keep up the great work! Merry Christmas to all!! !

James Funaro PGK/FDD/FCOB
NYS Chairman, Recruiting

DECEMBER 2024- C&B Final Drawing 12/07/24!!

As we approach the end of this year's C&B campaign, with the final drawing on Saturday December 7 a few reminders:

Grand Knights to check their current counts and see how close they are to the next bonus level. The State website is up-to date -with all checks received. In some cases, buying a few books brings the Council to next level and achieves a higher bonus amount.

How to get your Books handed in on time:

- **Mail to the NYS PO Box:**

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS P.O. BOX 640789
OAKLAND GARDENS STATION OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. 11364-0789

- **Mail Directly to the Villa Roma Resort:**

356 Villa Roma Road, Callicoon, NY 12723-6816 Attn.:_Ken Karchinski,

- **Give Books to your DD's or a State Officers attending.**

TURKEY CHALLENGE – As we will be with families at Thanksgiving ask family members or friends to buy a chance If there are 20 people at your table and everyone put in \$2 which equals \$40 that is 4 books. Just think how many additional books that would be for the State.

On the 7th at 545p.m sit back and watch the drawing, (live Instructions are listed)

Thank you to Ralph, Chris and Roger from our Communications team

The C&B Drawing will be streamed live. Click the link on the homepage of the State Website NYKOFC.COM on DEC 7th at approx 5:45. We encourage you SUBSCRIBE to the NYS YOUTUBE Channel

(<https://www.youtube.com/@NY-KofC-Video>) so you will be the first notified when we go LIVE

GOOD Luck to everyone and Merry Christmas!!

Ken Karchinski

Brothers:

What a year! The NYS Training Team is composed of an outstanding group of extremely talented, devoted highly skilled leaders. I am so lucky to have them all on the team. And thanks to our State Deputy for all his support.



We conducted training this month in the Westchester / Putnam area. Lots of great feedback from those that attended.

A word on our website, located at www.knightstraining.org. **Since January 9th, we have had 889 downloads!** If you have not visited this outside the box training videos and other resources, you are missing the boat. Take a look!

We're also toying with the idea of sending out short videos every few weeks with news and outside the box ideas to further help our Councils and officers. Watch for them. They will also be posted on our website. Notifications will be sent by email and text if we have your information. You can also send your info to kofcideas@gmail.com

Regarding the District Deputy Success Platform, you DD's need to get even more involved. This platform is designed to **HELP YOU SUCCEED** and further provide you assets that work. If you have questions or concerns, or have not yet been contacted by a staff member, please email Mike Murtha the Chairman at mtm12533@aol.com ... again, ALL DISTRICT DEPUTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT PROGRAM. IT'S A GREAT ASSET DESIGNED TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER! Can also find more information at www.nysdd.org

We are preparing for the Mid-Year meeting. Will be new "stuff!" Our presentation will be worth the trip... I promise. So, Worthy District Deputies, please make every effort to attend.

Our State Deputy Thanksgiving Town Hall Meeting will take place on Sunday evening, November 22 at 7:30PM. It's a Zoom meeting open to every brother member at Click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81033840594> to start or join a scheduled Zoom Meeting. More details can be found at www.knightstraining.org and follow the links. You can also find the details to join by phone. Please spread the word. Join the meeting and BRAG about the great things happening!

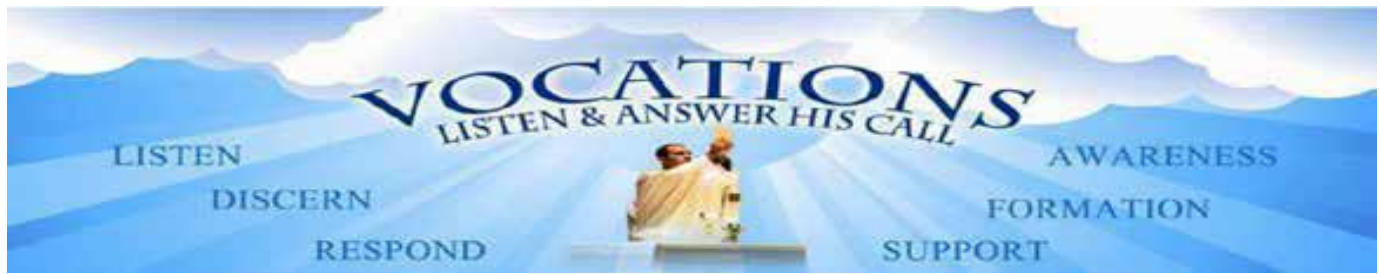
From The Driscoll Family to all, wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

God continue to bless the Knights of Columbus and the USA!

Hope to see you at the mid-year meeting. It's going to be "HUGE!"

Fraternally,

Steve Driscoll
NYS Training Director



“A CHRISTMAS GIFT”

Christmas 2024 is here and with it comes the many traditions that help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One of those many traditions is that of gift giving which emulates the great gift of Jesus Christ.

Who do I gift? What do I get for those close to me? Do my gifts represent love, need, humor or expectation? In addition to family, do my gifts reach out to the church, my friends, the community and the needy. Each of us answer in a different manner. Often, a gift responds in a loving way to the needs of an individual or the entire family.

As a Knights of Columbus council, what do we gift to God, our Church, the community and our brothers? The answer is very simple. We contribute to the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish and the entire church. We offer Christmas thanks to our priests and religious that serve us throughout the year. We proclaim our faith through the erection of Christmas themed displays such as a Nativity Scene in the local park. We support local appeals for the poor and handicapped. We have Christmas parties for our youth and our brothers. We are great “gift givers!”

As mentioned above, many gifts represent a need. As we prepare for Christmas of 2024, I would suggest **an additional gift** from each of the Knights of Columbus Councils of New York, to address the desperate problem facing our Church and Faith, the lack of priestly vocations. This gift would be done in addition to what you are currently doing to answer this need. Large or small, it can make a difference.

Over the past months, various suggestions have been presented for vocation promotion. Pick one or chose something new. Share it with your priests, the parish, the council and the community. If just one man reacted to a vocations gift from one of our over four hundred councils, what a magnificent gift it would be to us all!

Merry Christmas !





It is difficult to believe that as I write this we are getting ready to once again enter into the Advent season. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. Every year I say the same thing to myself - don't get so caught up in all the hustle and bustle of doing things - rushing around and trying to get things done - that

you don't take the time to embrace and enjoy the true meaning of the season. As Knights, we have so much going on this time of the year - so many things to plan at the council, all the different things we have going on - setting up the Council Nativity or Christmas tree - planning the kids party and or adult Christmas Party or both - selling wreaths at the Church -whatever it is - we all have them. Not to mention the Chapter or Assembly or Conference Christmas parties we attend. And there are only so many weekends. And if you notice I haven't even mentioned all of the family functions and events and responsibilities that we have going on. It's a lot.

So once again I will make that same promise to myself, to slow down and appreciate the true spirit of Christmas. For us as Knights, the Christmas Season is simply a continuation of what we do year round. The true spirit of Christmas in Catholic teaching is one of charity, compassion, and giving. It's about embodying the love of Christ by reaching out to those in need, whether through volunteering or simple acts of kindness. This season calls for a shift from materialism to a focus on spiritual enrichment and community. The season is a call for a renewal of faith-based traditions, promoting peace, love, and unity. Christmas is a timely reminder to foster these values not just within the Catholic community but in the wider community. Again, for us, it's simply a continuation of what we strive to do all year. But with a deeper appreciation of what we do and who we are. I look forward to the upcoming weeks, and I hope you do as well. And I truly hope you take the time to relish and enjoy the family and friends and people around you.

On behalf of my wife Jessica and myself, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

Michael Boehm
NYS Administrative Chairman for Communication
NYS Newsletter Editor



Important Dates and INFORMATION

Lou Pepe
Administrative State Chairman State Activities

Brothers,

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

* January 19, 2025: Pro Vita Mass + Blessed McGivney Statue Dedication / St. James Cathedral / Brooklyn / 11AM

* January 26, 2025: Pro Life Mass / St. Patrick's Cathedral / Manhattan / 10:15AM

* March 2, 2025: St. Agnes Cathedral / Rockville Centre / Blessed McGivney Statue Dedication / 11AM (Nassau/Suffolk please be sure to attend)

* March 21-23, 2025: NY State KofC Lenten Retreat / Wappingers Falls, NY / Pre-registration now open -- please contact me for details.

* March 29, 2025 / Founder's Day

* May 18, 2025: Our Lady of the Island Shrine / Long Island / 10AM Rosary, 11:30AM Mass. Blessing McGivney Statue Dedication following Mass.

Brothers, please forward these dates to your membership and Councils.

Vivat Jesus,
Lou Pepe
Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas.

The Silver Rose Arrives in New York!

On Monday November 11th NY State Deputy Anthony Ippolito & members of the State Team traveled to the Church of St. Gregory the Great in Harrison NY to receive the transfer of the Silver Rose from CT State Deputy Joseph C. Rahtelli and his State Team.



It was an Honor to have the Vice Supreme Master Joseph F. Peluso and the Fourth Degree Color Corp processing in with the NY State Deputy & CT State Deputy as they processed in with the SILVER ROSE.

Many dignitaries were in attendance from NY & CT Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes. Their presence and support added to the event's success and was truly appreciated. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Gary Leonardo NYS Events Coordinator & Frank Giacoio newly appointed NYS Silver Rose Chairman for organizing the Mass & repast, it was wonderful time. It is evident that your hard work and dedication significantly impacted our collective efforts.

Lamondo R. Spicer
NYS Administrative State Chairman Of Life Programs



Bishop Barres of the Diocese of Rockville Center was at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Greenlawn NY for the Mass of Installation for *NYS Associate State Chaplain Father Ed Sheridan* as Pastor. Also in the photo are Honor Guard from both Fatima and Shea Fourth Degree Assemblies, Suffolk County Conference Chairman John Piropato as well as NYS Membership Director Peter Lehr and Admin. State Chairman for Retention Michael Tully.



Bishop Barres, Bishop Andrzej, and Bishop Brennan gathered for the annual Te Deum Vespers and Dinner at the Retreat and Conference Center of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington where *Associate NY State Chaplain Chaplin Father Ed Sheridan* received the Immaculate Conception Medal, which is presented to a priest who has exemplified the qualities of commitment and fidelity to priestly service. Newly ordained priests, Father Dennis Gannon and Father Joseph Lettieri, were welcomed by those in attendance.



On November 9th the Nassau Chapter put on a Trivia Night with all the money raised to be donated to our retired Priests. This event was hosted by our State Deputy Anthony Ippolito. It was very well attended and a good time was had by all!





Knights of Columbus Food for Families Program

We are fast approaching the end of the calendar year, and will soon be preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These holidays bring fond memories, as well as an excited anticipation of sharing time with family and those close to us. The season of giving also reminds us of those in need, and the importance of the charitable mission of the Knights of Columbus.

The *Food for Families* Program is an excellent way to reach those in need. Food insecurity impacts many individuals, children, and families in New York State. The generosity of our Councils provides a large impact on reaching many who would otherwise be hungry. In addition, Councils who fulfill the requirements for the *Food for Families* Program will earn 2 credits on their SP7 form which will help them towards their ultimate goal of achieving **Star Council!** For information regarding the Food for Families program, visit <http://www.kofc.org>. Vivat Jesus,

Fraternally,

Darren M. Gamma, PGK, PFN, FDD, PCP
NYS Chairman - Food for Families
dmgamma@aol.com
[\(914\) 213-0865](tel:9142130865)



At a time when all things religious are being swept away it is refreshing that nation-wide the Knights of Columbus established the KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS campaign to remind us all that Christmas is a Holy Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

To help deliver the KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS message Knights of Columbus host an annual "Light Up for Christ" celebration in parishes and locations order wide on the first Tuesday of December (December 3rd this year) to mark the beginning of Advent and with anticipation of CHRISTMAS. Each Council may celebrate

slightly different but all happens around 7:00PM - 8:00PM with the lighting of a Nativity Scene, Christmas tree or Christmas Display.

"Light Up For Christ" Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We praise you for the light of creation; the sun, the moon and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the Prophets and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ your Son, the true Light of the world, the Light which no darkness can overcome. He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace who saved the world from darkness and brought humanity into the peace of everlasting Light. We praise you for Mary, who held your Son in her loving arms, and who was given to us as a Mother at the foot of the Cross. She is the New Eve, leading all her children into the Light of Joy who is her Son, Jesus. We praise you for the gift of faith, given to us at Baptism, which enlightens our minds to know and accept the Gospel of Truth and Life. Lord, we ask that your blessing come down upon the Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes and their Families, and those of our Family who cannot be with us today as we illumine this Nativity. May the light that it gives fill our hearts with hope that you will free us from the darkness of sin, and deliver us into the light of your peace and happiness. May all who look at this Christmas Display come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. Grant that we may always walk as sons and daughters of the light, keeping the flame of Truth alive in our hearts, until we join you and the heavenly host in the Kingdom of everlasting Light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Brothers All,

It's time to move forward with the Free-Throw Challenge. **Let's go with Community Service!**

By now scheduling of gym time for the Council events should be well under way. But there is still time to do so if you haven't already done it. As always, Council contests should be in the December/January timeframe, District level is in February and DDs should make sure that they have the District medals for their events.



Here are a couple updates on the Free-Throw Challenge that you should be aware of:

- **Do not use the old two-sided participant forms.** Click on this link for the [1598 score sheet](#) that you should be using. They should also be included in the new Free-Throw kits if you order one.
- **Make sure that you are up-to-date on the program and rules.**
- [Free-Throw Championship Playbook](#) Here are a few important ones:
 - Age is determined as of January 1, 2025 NOT their age when your event is held.
 - Council Level participants shoot 15 baskets
 - District Level and above participants shoot 25 baskets
 - Ties at all levels must be broken.
 - To break a tie, contestants take a second round of five free throws. No warm-up tosses are permitted for the tie-breaker rounds. Successive rounds of five free throws each continue until a winner emerges.
- Rules for proof of age/gender: “Paperwork that determines age eligibility of participants **should not be collected or copied.**” So, have them bring and show proof, but **do not make or attach copies of birth certificates or passports to the score sheets.** You can simply note on the score sheet that their eligibility has been verified.

Note: I have verified with our State Advocate, State Deputy and the Director at Supreme for the Free-Throw Championship that we still use the information on the Birth Certificate.

Supplies are available through Supplies Online:

Free Throw Kit (FT-KIT-E)

Free-Throw participant patches (FT-P-E). You can get 25 patches for \$15.25

District Deputies should order Free-Throw Medals if needed

Insurance for Free-Throw events

If an insurance certificate is requested, a one-day policy for \$1 million of coverage can be purchased from:

Lockton Affinity

800-496-0288

councilinsurance@locktonaffinity.com

Dates for regional finals are TBD Please follow-up with your regional

The NYS finals will be at West Point (*Date TBD*). The team at West Point does a wonderful job with supplying us with a facility and Knights to work with the kids. I look forward to working with them again this year.

It is important to make sure that all Diocesan and KofC Safe Environment requirements are met at all events. We have a moral obligation as well as a legal obligation to safeguard events that involve the youth in our communities and parishes.

Thank you all for your help. I look forward to working with all of you on the Free-Throw program. Vivat Jesus!

Nick Caputo

Free Throw State Chair

e: santa.nick.c@gmail.com

c: 315-247-3677

h: 315-627-0171

~Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles.~

Matthew 5:41



The 2024 C&B Drawing will be streamed live from Villa Roma! Click the link on the homepage of the State Website [NYKOFC.COM](https://www.nysko.org) on **DEC 7th at approx. 5:45 pm.** Please SUBSCRIBE now to the NYS YOUTUBE Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@NY-KofC-Video>)

We hope that you will join us!

Vivat Jesus,
Ralph M. Cefalo PGK,FDD,PFN
Communications Director
New York State Council
Knights of Columbus
ralph.cefalo@nysko.org
917-743-8592



By Victor M. Parachin

Christmas Traditions around the World.

Every December and in every country on the planet, people celebrate Christmas. There may be caroling, candles, decorated trees, Nativity scenes, candy canes, Advent wreaths, mistletoe, wrapped gifts, social gatherings, gift giving, stockings, poinsettias, Santa Claus or St. Nicholas. The ways of celebrating Christmas are endless because the holiday proclaims the universal desire for peace on earth and goodwill to all. Here are eight Christmas traditions from around the world.

Mexico

At midnight on Christmas Eve in Mexico, festivities are interrupted by the ringing of bells calling families to *La Misa Del Gallo* (The Mass of The Rooster). This service is called the “Mass of the Rooster” because tradition teaches that the only time that a rooster crowed at midnight was on the day that Jesus was born. In Mexico and among Mexican Americans, Christmas celebrations take place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas, from Dec.16 to 24. The word *posada* means “inn” or “lodging” in Spanish. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted.

During the nine *posada* days, children process on the streets with candles and a board featuring painted clay figures of Mary riding on a donkey, and Joseph. They call at the houses of friends and sing holiday songs. Like Joseph and Mary, children ask for lodging in the house but are told that there is no room in the house and that they must go away. Eventually they are accommodated and welcomed. Inside, the children offer prayers of thanks and then have a party with food and games. The most popular game played at *Posada* parties is *piñata* which is a decorated paper mache container filled with sweets and hung from the ceiling or tree branch. To play the game, children are blindfolded and take turns hitting the *piñata* with a stick until it splits open and the sweets fall out. Then the children rush to pick up as many sweets as they can! Evenings end with fireworks.

Greenland

Because Greenland sits north of the tree line, residents import evergreens from Denmark or they simply bring in a driftwood tree. In either case, they add holiday decorations to the tree. Greenland Inuit villagers visit each other where they drink coffee, eat sweets, and exchange brightly wrapped traditional gifts such as miniature sleds, polished walrus tusks, or sealskin mittens. Their children go from house to house singing carols. Most homes and village centers display a brightly lit star. This is both festive and practical. Greenland is so far north that in winter months the sun doesn’t appear, leaving residents in a perpetual midnight so the stars offer some much welcomed light. Greenlanders’ Christmas meals include *mattak*, whale skin with a strip of blubber inside. They consider it a delicacy and a special holiday treat.

Venezuela

From Dec. 16 – 24 early morning Masses are celebrated. These are called *Misa de Aguinaldo* (early Morning Mass). While not all families are able to attend this daily Mass for the nine days, most families make an effort to participate in as many as possible. In Caracas, the capital and largest city of Venezuela, there is a unique custom of roller-skating to Mass.

Many neighborhoods close the streets to cars until 8 a.m., to protect skating children. Some homes do have Christmas trees, but usually they are artificial as pine and fir evergreens aren't common to Venezuela. More popular than Christmas trees are the presence of Nativity scenes (*Nacimiento*) in homes. Traditional Venezuelan Christmas foods include *hallacas* — a tamale made from a mixture of beef, pork, chicken, capers, raisins, and olives that is wrapped in maize and plantain leaves and tied up with string into a parcel and then boiled or steamed. Venezuelans also enjoy *pan de jamón* — a bread that's made with puff pastry, filled and rolled up with ham, raisins, olives, and bacon.

Armenia

This country is believed to be the first to adopt Christianity as its state religion in 301. The great apostle of Armenia was St. Gregory the Illuminator (257–337). Armenia proclaimed its independence from the Soviet Union on Sept. 23, 1991. The majority of Armenians belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church with 10 percent of the population being Catholic in communion with Rome. Christmas is celebrated on Jan. 6. During the week leading up to Christmas, many Armenian families fast in ways similar to Christians who do so during Lent. Armenia clergy will often fast for 40 days leading up to Christmas. At the beginning of December a large Christmas tree (*Tonatsar*) is put up in Republic Square in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. Favorite and traditional holiday foods in Armenia include *Anooshaboor* (Armenian Christmas pudding), *Khozee bood* (glazed ham), and dried fruits. Women prepare a variety of sweets because it is customary for family and friends who stop by for a visit during the season.

Ireland

Traditionally, people in Ireland put a tall, thick candle on the sill of the largest window after sunset on Christmas Eve. That candle is left to burn all night symbolizing a welcoming light for Mary and Joseph. Christmas officially begins on December 8th ending on the feast of the Epiphany on Jan. 6. Irish families adorn their homes with lights, tinsel, and a brightly decorated Christmas tree with an angel on top and colorfully wrapped presents beneath. In ancient times, Irish people used holly and ivy to decorate their homes before the Christmas tree was introduced. It was believed the more berries on the holly would mean better fortune in the new year. Today many families still like to display holly in their homes. Holiday foods include a round cake full of caraway seeds. One is traditionally made for each person in the house. It is becoming more common to have a Christmas fruit cake decorated with icing. Traditional Christmas Eve or Christmas Day dinner centers around a roasted turkey. The most popular dessert is a Christmas pudding.

India

This country is predominantly Hindu with Christians making up less than 3 percent of the population. Nevertheless that percentage translates into 25 million Christians in India. Goa, India's smallest state on the west coast, has the largest population of Christians, approximately 26 percent of that population. Midnight Mass is an important liturgy for Christians in India. Churches in India are decorated with poinsettia flowers and candles for Midnight Mass. Instead of having traditional Christmas trees, a banana or mango tree is decorated or whatever local tree is available.

Sometimes people use mango leaves to adorn their homes. In southern India, Christians often display small oil burning clay lamps on the flat roofs of their homes to show their neighbors that

Jesus is the light of the world. Indians love sweets and consume ample amounts during Christmas. Favored sweets include *neureos* (small pastries which are stuffed with dry fruit and coconut and then fried) and *dodol* (like toffee that has coconut and cashews in it). Families carefully prepare many sweets leading up Christmas in order to share them with family, friends, and neighbors. The main Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve and is similar to those in Western countries with roast turkey or chicken.

Ethiopia

According to legend, Christianity came to Ethiopia as the result of a kidnapping. Two Christians named Frumentios and Aidesios — both residents of Tyre — were abducted on the Red Sea and taken to Aksum, Ethiopia's capital at the time. There they became slaves. Because they were highly educated, the two were installed as private tutors to the royal family. They not only taught the king's children mathematics and Greek, but imparted the fundamentals of their Christian faith as well. In the middle of the 4th century, King Ezana decided to be baptized. By 330, Christianity was proclaimed the state religion. Most Ethiopians are part of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7. Like Armenian Christians, those in Ethiopia do some fasting during the 40 days leading up to Christmas. During this fast time, Ethiopians become vegan, avoiding the eating of meat, dairy, eggs, oil, and wine. Those who are very young, very elderly, or unhealthy may be exempted from the fasting period or they may reduce it. Traditional Christmas foods in Ethiopia include *wat* which is a thick and spicy stew that contains meat, vegetables, and sometimes eggs. *Wat* is eaten on a plate of *injera* — a flat bread. Pieces of the injera are used as an edible spoon to scoop up the *wat*. The Christmas celebration is called *Ganna*. Most Christians attend services on Christmas Day with early Masses beginning at 4 am. Gift giving is not an important aspect of Christmas. Sometimes children might be given a small gift — usually an item of clothing — from their family members.

Finland

Citizens of Finland claim that Santa Claus or Father Christmas resides year round in the northern part of their country in an area called *Lapland*, which is north of the Arctic Circle.

Christmas is so popular in Finland that most people try to be at home for Christmas, including fishermen who try to get their boats into the harbor by Dec. 21, St. Thomas' Day. Even animals are included in Christmas festivities with farmers hanging a sheaf of wheat on a tree to be eaten and pecked at by the birds. Nuts and pieces of suet are also hung on trees in bags from the branches. For Finlanders, "joy to the world" means including all beings. Finlanders' main meal is taken on Christmas Eve and includes *lutefish* (salt fish) or pork with mashed potato. Cured salmon is popular and some people also have turkey. Casseroles containing different vegetables including rutabaga and carrot are served. Desert is baked rice pudding/porridge eaten with spiced plum jam. One almond is hidden in the pudding. Whoever finds the almond is believed to be blessed with luck for the next year. After the meal, Father Christmas visits leaving presents. Christmas Day is generally quiet and the following day, called Boxing Day, continues the holiday with families doing outdoor activities such as skiing and skating. All around the world and among all people, Christmas is a celebration which challenges and calls human beings to live out their higher purpose — to increase kindness, to love mercy, to experience joy, and to cultivate peace.

No matter where you live, or where you are from, or what traditions you follow, the meaning of Christmas is the same all over the world. The true meaning of Christmas—the Good News—is that God has sent his only Son to Earth to save people from their sins. Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream — it is a glorious reality. Merry Christmas!!

2024 TV Christmas Schedule

One of the best things about the Christmas Season is getting together with family and watching all the old favorite Christmas shows! Here is a list of the Dates and Times of a few of our Favorites!

Freeform
25 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
WATCH DEC 1-25

<p>DEC 1 10:30a Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You Freeform Premiere 6:45p Home Alone Triple Feature</p> <p>DEC 2 8:20p Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)</p> <p>DEC 3 7:55p Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018)</p> <p>DEC 4 4:30p The Santa Clause Triple Feature 12a The Mistle-Tones</p> <p>DEC 5 8p Frozen 8:25p Frozen II 10:30p Olaf's Frozen Adventure 12a Holiday in Handcuffs</p> <p>DEC 6 3:40p Disney's A Christmas Carol 10:55p Noelle</p> <p>DEC 7 8:35p Frosty the Snowman 9:10p Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer</p> <p>DEC 8 9:55p Dashing Through the Snow (2023) Freeform Premiere 12a Santa's Little Helper (2015) Freeform Premiere</p> <p>DEC 9 12p The Santa Clause Triple Feature 6:30p Miracle on 34th Street (1994)</p> <p>DEC 10 6:30p Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018) 8:30p Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)</p> <p>DEC 11 11:30a Jingle All the Way Double Feature 6p Home Alone Double Feature</p>	<p>DEC 12 11a Toy Story that Time Forgot</p> <p>DEC 13 1:10p Toy Story Marathon</p> <p>DEC 14 4:05p Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) 6:45p Home Alone Double Feature</p> <p>DEC 15 7:20p The Santa Clause Triple Feature</p> <p>DEC 16 8:45p Frosty the Snowman 9:20p Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer</p> <p>DEC 17 7a Santa Buddies: The Legend of Santa Paws 6:15p Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town</p> <p>DEC 18 4:30p The Santa Clause Triple Feature 12a Black Nativity</p> <p>DEC 19 11a Arthur Christmas</p> <p>DEC 20 2:25p Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) 10p Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018)</p> <p>DEC 21 7a The Little Drummer Boy (1968) 4:35p Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town 5:40p Frosty the Snowman 6:15p Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer</p> <p>DEC 22 9:15p Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)</p> <p>DEC 23 2:10p Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas 11:40p Last Christmas</p> <p>DEC 24 1p The Santa Clause Triple Feature 9p Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018)</p> <p>DEC 25 10:30a Frosty the Snowman 11a Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer 6p Home Alone Double Feature</p>
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Times in ET/PT. Full schedule at Freeform.com

NBC :

Wednesday, December 4

8-10 p.m.: *Christmas in Rockefeller Center*

Thursday, December 5

8-8:30 p.m. (encore on December 25 at 8 p.m.): *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966)

8:30-9 p.m. (encore on December 11 at 8 p.m.): *Frosty the Snowman*

Friday, December 6

8-9:15 p.m. (encore on December 12 at 8 p.m.): *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

Tuesday, December 24

8-11 p.m.: *It's a Wonderful Life*

11:30 p.m.-1 a.m.: *Christmas Eve Mass*

CBS :

Friday, December 20

8:00-9:00 p.m. ET: *National Christmas Tree Lighting*

9:00-10:00 p.m. ET: *Josh Groban & Friends Go Home for the Holidays*

ABC:

Sunday, December 1

8:01-10:00 p.m. ES: *The Wonderful World of Disney: Holiday Spectacular*

Tuesday, December 3

9:00-10:00 p.m. ET: *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town*

Tuesday, December 31

Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2025

I hope you have a fun time watching with the Family, or even by yourself!!!

THE SEASONS OF PRAYER

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

LENT

MOVING CLOSER TO GOD

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME



NY STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

2025 LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 21-23, 2025

MT. ALVERNIA RETREAT HOUSE

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New York State Knight of Columbus



**ST. JOHN'S RED STORM
VS.
DEPAUL BLUE DEMONS**



TUESDAY DECEMBER 17TH, 2024

AT 6:30 PM

at CARNESECCA ARENA

\$40 Per Ticket

Tickets Will be Available for Pick at the Door

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE



CHARITY TO BE DETERMINED



MAIL FORM with PAYMENT TO:

TONY VESCO
1015 - 73RD STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11228
ATTN: RED STROM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

TONY VESCO (646) 642-9145
EMAIL:
TONYVESCO481@GMAIL.COM



Make Checkl or Money Ortder payable to:
NYS COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. In MEMO Please put **Red Storm**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

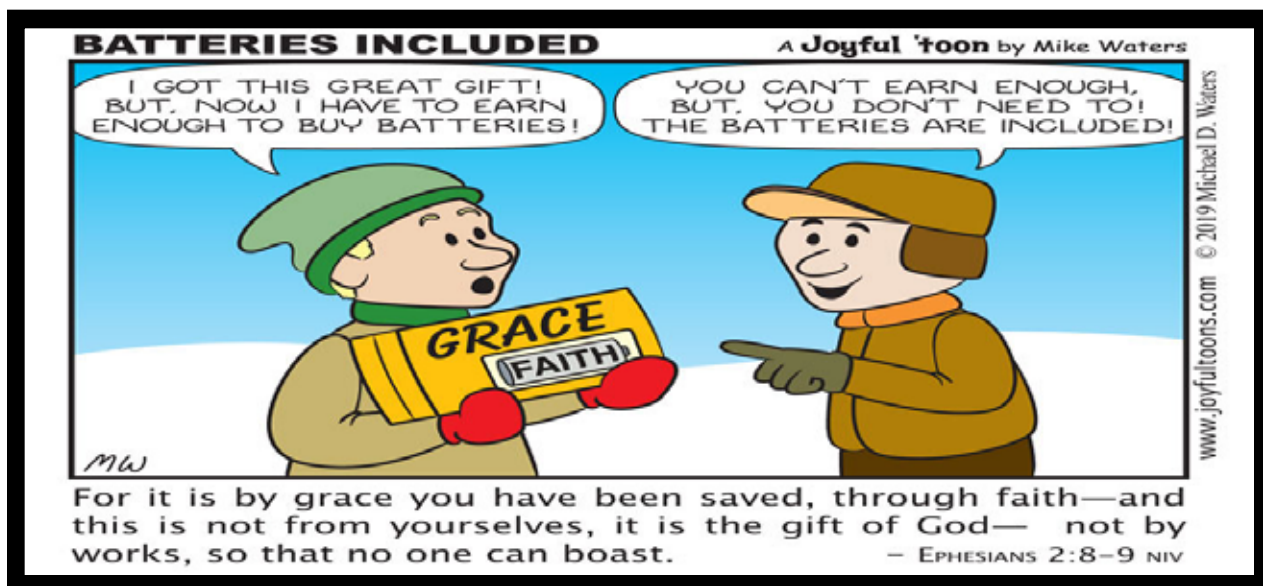
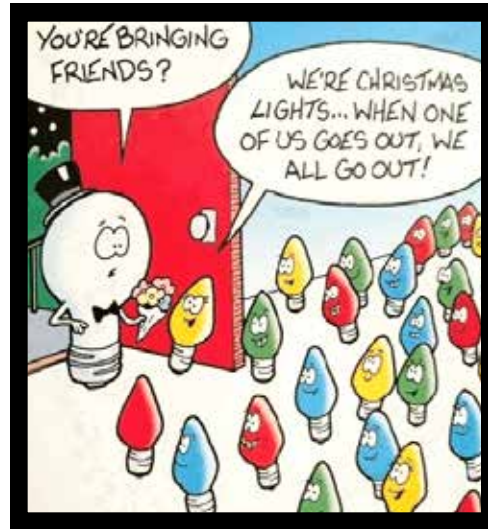
CELL PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____ (Print Clearly)

OF TICKET: _____ at \$40 each

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____



While Mary was giving birth to the son of God, Joseph was having his own problems.



The parish priest who changed the world.



BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY

Parish Priest

Founder

Knights Of Columbus

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Church Statue Initiative

Join the New York State Knights of Columbus, the first jurisdiction to place
10 statues of Blessed Michael McGivney in the 8 Cathedrals and
2 Co-Cathedrals of New York State.

Celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney's profound impact on the Catholic Church
and his remarkable journey toward sainthood.

Commemorate this humble parish priest, who founded the Knights of Columbus
and is revered for his unwavering faith and dedication to serving others.

Contributions

Donations should be payable to "New York State Council Knights of Columbus"
and sent to SK Louis Pepe, 93 Rapelve St. 4D, Brooklyn, NY 11231.





Join us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nykofc>

Facebook Group of New York State Council Knights of Columbus.
Posts should be limited to the Knights of Columbus. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you have access to resources, such as social media, to help you grow deeper in your faith, stay informed about the Order and connect to your Brother Knights. This is the **ONLY OFFICAL FB Page of the NYS Council**



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles

In order to have enough time to get everything reedy for the Newsletter, Please send your Articles and Photos in **NO LATER than the 20th of **EACH MONTH.** Send them to the Editor at mb1122@msn.com**



On behalf of our State Deputy Anthony Ippolito, all of the State Officers, Chaplains, Directors, Chairmen and Staff, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



December



Christmas Eve 24th



Christmas 25th

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, **Blessed Michael McGivney**, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify **Blessed Michael McGivney** on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild promotes the cause for sainthood of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, who was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020. Members of the Guild, and anyone devoted to Father McGivney, can play an active role in the cause by praying for his intercession in times of need, especially in cases of serious illness, and reporting to the Guild any favors received.

Membership in the Guild is free and open to anyone who is devoted to Father McGivney and wishes to invoke his intercession and assist in his sainthood cause through prayer. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and are remembered in a weekly Mass offered for their intentions.

Catholic men who wish to live out the vision and mission of Father McGivney are invited to join the [Knights of Columbus](#) and become part of a network of charity, unity and fraternity that serves local parishes and communities. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., and died at the age of 38 in 1890. His cause for sainthood was opened in 1997, and his heroic virtue was recognized by the Vatican in March 2008, when he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI.

On May 26, 2020, Father McGivney took another step toward sainthood when Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a [miracle attributed to his intercession](#). With the approval of this miracle, he was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020, with the title of Blessed.

Another miracle through his intercession is needed for him to be canonized as a saint.

Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to recite regularly the prayer for his canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. You may Report favors through this website or by email or regular mail at the addresses listed below.

To request a third-class relic or to order devotional items, click on the [online form link](#). Print out the form, fill it out and mail it to the Father McGivney Guild.

The Guild has more than 176,000 members, and you are encouraged to join by filling out and submitting the [online form](#). Please assist in the cause of Father McGivney by spreading the word about this holy and blessed priest.

For more information or to request a prayer card:

Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Tel: 203-752-4087

Email:guild@kofc.org