



The Columbian Gazette

Of Ashburn

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ASHBURN, VA

From Deacon Noah

What is Advent?

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation.

Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighed down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar. Advent also includes an element of personal penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. Properly understood, advent is not a time for Christmas parties, cookies, and spiked eggnog. Advent devotions of increased Mass attendance, daily prayer, and reading of both theology and Scripture can help you fully enter into the season and prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to De-

Deacon Noah (Continued on page 3)

From our Grand Knight

Trust the Lord and Stand Tall

Brothers: there is a lot in the news these days that threatens to have us drop our guard – whether it is the outbreak of wars or a declining sense of morality across our culture, something seems amiss in our world today. In times like these, we must dig into our faith and remain strong. Recall the words of our Lord in John 14:27, "...do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The Bible is full of verses imploring us to trust the Lord during tough times. Our beloved Saints also encourage us to pray unceasingly no matter what. Now more than ever, we as Brother Knights simply need to continue what we always do: pray the Rosary daily, help our brothers and sisters in need, deepen our prayer lives, and dig into life with our faith as our trusted shields.

In this Christmas season, let's also call to mind the wonderful blessings we have in our lives, and what our Council has brought to bear this year. You all are truly the "Hands of Christ" in all things that you do to help others. Remember that our small actions generate large ripples across our communities. Some of our actions are very visible, like our food drives, or raising money for KOVAR, while other actions go unseen or unheard like a quiet prayer for a sick brother or visiting the homebound. I cannot thank you enough for all you do to serve our wonderful Parish.

We will soon close the books on 2023 and turn the corner into 2024. While we don't know what the new year will bring, we will stand tall in the breach to assist where we can. Let's all recall the words of

Grand Knight (Continued on page 2)

St. Francis of Assisi as we march into 2024: "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." Merry Christmas to you and your families, brother Knights!!

- John Hegarty

Book Review:

***Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* by Pope Benedict XVI**

By ROBERT N. BORGHESE

Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives by Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) is a short book of only 144 pages that is a must read during this Advent Season. Pope Benedict XVI, as you may know, is a gifted writer who inspires with his great insights and ability to make what happened 2,000 years ago just as relevant today.

The book begins with the genealogy of Jesus, moves on to the Annunciations of John the Baptist and Jesus (contrasting the two events), the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the appearance of the Star, the arrival of the Magi, the flight into Egypt, and ending with finding Jesus in the temple at age 12.

The superb writing brings alive and gives insight into what seems on the surface minor details. For instance, at the end of Luke's annunciation narrative the verse: "And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1:38) seems inconsequential but the author makes us realize that now Mary is very much alone with no angel beside her to face the reaction of Joseph and society to her pregnancy and to face an unknown for which there is no precedent that will include great sorrows as well as joys.

Particularly fascinating, is the discussion of the Star which the Magi followed. There are several historical references to a bright star around the time of Jesus' birth. For instance, a Chinese chronological table refers to a bright star appearing that was visible for quite a long time. In summary, the great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the year 7-6 B.C., which is now thought to be the year Jesus was born, appears to be an established fact that could well have pointed astronomers toward a "king of the Jews."

This Advent Season is the perfect time to read this short but very inspiring book to spiritually prepare yourself for the Nativity of Jesus.

- RB

Degree Exemplification Ceremony Held on October 30, 2023

A degree exemplification ceremony was hosted by our Council at St. Theresa School on Monday, October 30. Four new Council members earned their Third degree. Pictured in the first photo below with District Deputy Steve Rogers, from left to right are Chester Starowitz, who is a transfer, along with Christopher Mooney and Christian Decesaris, who are both new members. In the second photo, second from the right is new member Geoffrey Peters. The remaining brothers pictured are from other Councils. Please give a warm welcome to our new brothers in the Council!



(Continued from page 1) Deacon

ember 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well. You are more familiar with these antiphons than you realize, as each one is the first line of a stanza of that classic Advent Hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

One last thought on Advent and Christmas. When you see a painting of Jesus in the manger, you should remind yourself that He is there for the same reason that Allied soldiers landed at Normandy. To fight. To fight to free you from the clutches of Satan; to free you from being a slave to Sin and Death. That's why He came. What is your response?

Be assured of my prayers for each of you and your families, as you lead them through a Holy Advent to a Joyous Christmas! May we all accept the baby Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

ICXC NIKA - Dcn. Noah

RESPECT

As a Knight, we are supposed to be model gentlemen. Our actions are supposed to reflect the principles of our Order. So let's take a moment to think about our own actions when it comes to showing "respect." One source says the following regarding the meaning of "respect" in the Bible:

"Respect is not a trust we give easily and consistently unless we see qualities that are strong, pure, faithful, and serving. [God](#) has these qualities and more. He is the quintessence of every good quality, demonstrating them throughout the history of mankind and lovingly revealing them to us personally. He deserves our eager respect. We have everything to gain by giving it because it will greatly aid our progress in preparing for His Kingdom."

So do we show respect for God in our manner of going to church? Do we arrive on time? Do we show Him respect in the way we dress? Do we respectfully receive the Body of Christ? Do we stay to the end of Mass? How do we handle respect in our family relationships? One source says:

"Respect in a relationship means that both partners feel valued and appreciated. They feel like they can be themselves around each other and trust each other. There is mutual understanding and communication, and both partners are considerate of each other's needs and feelings. Respect is an important foundation for any healthy relationship. It means valuing your partner and their opinions, even when you don't agree with them. It also means listening to each other and being open to compromise. Without respect, relationships can quickly become unhealthy, with one person feeling like they are always being put down or ignored. This can lead to resentment and eventually, a break-up. If you want your relationship to thrive, start by showing your partner the respect they deserve."

What about in our daily lives? The above dialogue applies not only to your spouse but to your children, co-workers, neighbors, and others with whom we have continuing contact. With our children, we typically teach them to say "please," "thank you," and other forms of polite behavior. Do we model that ourselves when dealing with them, especially if we are telling them to do something or are upset with them?

The world around us is changing dramatically every day. Part of that change has been a deterioration in people practicing respect. Many people are focused only on themselves and haven't a care as to any effect that their words or actions have on another person. There is too much "all about me" surrounding us. As Knights, we are called upon to act out our Order's principles. Please try your hardest to reverse the downward trend of disrespectful behavior and show respect for others in your actions at church, in the home, and out in the world.

- Doug Smith

Pro-Life Corner



Save the Date! February 21, 2024

The Virginia March for Life will take place on February 21, 2024 in Richmond, VA! This is the biggest gathering of pro-life Virginians in our Commonwealth. As the abortion industry receives more money than ever through taxpayer dollars, now is the time to stand and boldly share the beautiful message of life. Our message of love for the unborn children and their mothers will be heard by every member of the legislature as they come to Richmond that Wednesday for one of their session days.

Please prayerfully consider attending this March in 2024. A Sign-Up Genius will be sent in the weeks ahead as the Parish is likely to hire a bus to head down to the event for the day.

Breakfast with Santa - December 3

Our annual Breakfast with Santa was held on Sunday, December 3. The event coincided with the parish's annual Festival of Trees fundraiser. Attendance topped expectations and we were able to collect over \$1700.00 in donations. Net proceeds will benefit Divine Mercy Outreach. Thank you Mike Purcell and Santa along with all the volunteers that came out to help!

- RF



Polo Shirt Order Form

Knights Of Columbus – St. Louis Martin Council, Ashburn VA
Personal Order Form -

Example of Council Emblem & Type of Shirt – Council Shirt Color is Navy Blue

Important Note: Buyers Need to submit orders by Friday December 16! Send Order Form (scan or photo) to dicksena@aol.com

SPECIAL NOTE: FOR ANYONE WHO DID ORDER AND PAY FOR A SHIRT PREVIOUSLY AND DID NOT RECEIVE ONE YET (Due to the factory batch quantity requirements) – Please submit this order form and make a note at the bottom “Paid for in 2022” Thank You -RAS

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Rev.0: ... 10/9/2023 ... RAS

Insurance and Investments Corner

All parishioners and brother knights are invited to join a financial seminar hosted by the Knights of Columbus. The seminar will be in the Zelle room on December 7th at 7pm. Learn how the Knights can help you invest, provide for your family, and prepare for retirement without violating your Catholic faith.



CURRENT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (2023-2024)

Chaplain
District Deputy
Grand Knight
Deputy Grand Knight
Chancellor
Financial Secretary
Warden
Recorder
Treasurer
Advocate
Trustees

Father Hudgins
Steve Rogers
John Hegarty
Mike Boyle
John Beauchesne
Jim Bonfils
Eric Ciliberti
Stephen McLaughlin
Stephen Shields
Tony Gizzi
3 Yr. Rob McNamee
2 Yr. Miguel Rodriguez
1 Yr. William Lehner
Miguel Rodriguez
William Lehner
Mike Boyle
Vince Tranchitella
Miguel Sian
Vince Tranchitella
Jack Hayes
Vince Tranchitella
Stephen McLaughlin
Eric Ciliberti
Rudy Flores
Dave Schreder
Eric Ciliberti
Robert Borghese
Erich I. Stefanyshyn
John Beauchesne
Jack Hayes
Jack Hayes
James Sinnott
Donald J. Smaltz
Benny Perez
Anthony Gizzi
William Lehner

Primary Alt. Sate Del.
Secondary Alt. State Del.
Programs Director
Lecturer
Inside Guard
Outside Guard
Faith Director
Vocations Chairman
Community Director
Life Director
Public Relations

Family Director
Membership Director
Recruitment Committee
Retention Chairman
Construction Team Lead
KOVAR Team Lead
Fraternal Benefits Field Agent
Technology Team
Parish Picnic

Catholic Investments for Catholic Families Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors' advisory services

Learn more about our faith-based investments at our upcoming Financial Seminar and Social.

December 7, 2023 7:00 p.m.

St. Theresa Catholic Church – Zelle Room
21370 St. Theresa Lane, Ashburn, VA 20147

 **Knights of Columbus**
Asset Advisors®


RSVP free but required:
abbatekofc.com/events
1-866-868-1492
The Abbate Agency

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Father Daughter Dance

We need help from Knights and kind individuals (many friends of Kate Rhoads :) to help support the planning and execution of this event. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0848AEAF2AA3F94-45910955-sttheresa/25520114#/>



SCAN QR CODE ABOVE TO REGISTER FOR

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

IN THE SAINT THERESA SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

OPEN TO ALL ST. THERESA PARISH AND SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN-8TH GRADE GIRLS AND THEIR FATHERS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH 7-9PM

\$25 PER COUPLE
\$10 EACH ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER

DJ, PHOTO BOOTH, RAFFLE PRIZES, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

SPACE LIMITED- DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1ST

PROCEEDS WILL HELP FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGH DIVINE MERCY OUTREACH



Visit our Website: <https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/>