



Immacolata Council Newsletter

Knights of Columbus Immacolata Council 13819, Houma, LA

December 2021

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Brothers,

Happy New Liturgical Year! Advent, of course, is the four-week liturgical season that precedes Christmas. The term "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming," and it focuses not only on the past coming of Jesus on the first Christmas but also on the present coming of Jesus in the gospels, the sacraments, other people, prayer, love, truth, and personal experience, and the future coming of Jesus at the Second or Final Coming at the end of the world, the Parousia or the Last Judgment. Advent is not Lent or a miniature version of Lent. In fact, the two seasons are extremely different. Advent stresses hope and joy, Lent stresses penance and sorrow; Advent emphasizes what we need to add to our lives (e.g., grace, light, joy), while Lent emphasizes what we need to remove (i.e., sin); Advent stresses preparation with festivity, Lent stresses preparation with sackcloth and ashes; Advent features the prophet Isaiah, Lent features the prophet Jeremiah. The main saint of Advent is John the Baptist. The Baptist was the voice crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Is 40:3; Mt 3:3), which is what we are called to do during this holy season. If we hope to have a spiritually profitable Advent, we, like the Baptist, must diminish, while Jesus increases in power and brilliance in our lives.

A few announcements:

- We are still in need of a Community Director. If you are interested or would like additional information, please reach out to me
- We will be providing a contribution to Hope Restored Pregnancy Resource Center in order to address damage to their facilities as a result of Hurricane Ida
- Our next meeting will be held on Friday, December 16th which will be our annual pot luck supper. The council will be providing the main dish

On behalf of Cecile and myself have a joyful Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Holy New Year! Vivat Jesus!
Terry Allemand, Grand Knight

Officers 2021-2022

Grand Knight – Terry Allemand
Chaplain – Fr. Joey Pilola
Deputy Grand Knight – Mike Rodrigue
Chancellor – Darryl Barrios
Financial Secretary – Wayne Bonvillain
Treasurer – Jim Thibodaux
Recorder – Barry McNamara
Advocate – Chris Thibodeaux
Lecturer – Doyle Prince
Warden – Floyd Ordoyne
Outside Guard – John Comeaux
Inside Guard – Tim Pennison
Three-Year Trustee - Jerry Boudreaux
Two-Year Trustee – David Neal
One Year Trustee – Lynn Foret
Field Agent – VACANT

Chairmen

Program Director – Mike Rodrigue
Membership Director – Darryl Barrios
Community Activities – Tony Aex
Faith Activities – Darryl Barrios
Family Activities – Paul Boudreaux
Life Activities – Kenny Rivero
Golf Tournament – Jim Thibodaux

Reminder

Council Meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month in the Community Gathering Center. The schedule is as follows: 5:30pm – Officers Planning Meeting; 6:15pm – Rosary; 7:05pm – Meal; 7:25pm – Lecturer's Reflection; 7:30pm - Council Meeting. Any Practicing Catholic Male 18+ that is interested in joining, can contact any council member or visit www.kofc.org/joinus.



FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the family of Bobby and Kathy Abboud for being selected Family of the Month for October 2021.

Upcoming Events

Mass and Men's Bible Study Every Wednesday at 6:00am in the Gathering Center

Adoration, Rosary, and Reconciliation Every Wednesday from 5-7pm in the Gathering Center

December 2	Assembly 336 Meeting	Houma Council Home	7:00pm
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)		
December 17	Council Meeting and Pot Luck Social		
December 19	Council Sponsored Mass		8:30am
December 24	Christmas Eve		
December 25	Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)		
December 26	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph		
December 31	New Year's Eve		
January 1	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God		

Affordable Protection for Catholic Families

The Knights of Columbus offers a complete portfolio of top-quality products to our members and their eligible family members. Contact Dan Cabirac at (985) 601-2400 or dan.cabirac@kofc.org for more information.

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge for December 2021

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" (Gospel for Dec. 5, Lk 3:3-4)

The preaching of John the Baptist reminds us what Advent is all about: turning away from sin and preparing for the coming of the Lord. It's all too easy to get sidetracked or distracted by Christmas shopping and parties and fail to prepare spiritually for Christ's coming. My brothers, let us truly prepare our hearts this Advent — and help our families do the same — so that we might fully and fruitfully celebrate Christ's birth.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to prayerfully incorporate both an Advent calendar and Advent wreath into your Christmas preparations. Second, I challenge you to undertake the Keep Christ in Christmas Faith in Action program.

Questions for Reflection:

How can you avoid getting excessively distracted by your work obligations or holiday stress during the weeks of Advent? What can you do to set aside time for prayer, confession and other spiritual preparations for Christmas? How can you lead your family in staying focused on the true spirit of the coming Christmas feast?

Coming Soon – The Eight Stations of Advent

Our Faith Director, Darryl Barrios, is working with Fr. Joey to schedule a new program for our parish. You have probably prayed the Stations of the Cross many times, and even if you haven't prayed them, you have probably heard of them. Praying the Stations of the Cross, prayerfully accompanying Christ on his way to Calvary, is an ancient devotion, especially popular during Lent, meant to help us grow in our friendship with the Lord. Why not do something similar during Advent? In Advent we pay special attention to three comings of Christ: his first coming in Bethlehem, his final coming at the end of history, and his coming here and now in our hearts through the Church's liturgical celebrations. Christ's comings are the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem the fallen human family. The redemption culminated in Christ's resurrection from the dead, which happened on the first day of the week, also referred to by theological tradition as the "eighth day" - the day after the Sabbath, which was the seventh day of the ancient Jewish week. Keep on the lookout of the announcement of the date and time of *The Eight Stations of Advent* and join us in this devotion to help you live this Advent and Christmas more deeply, peacefully, and meaningfully than ever before.

The Family Fully Alive: Building the Domestic Church **December Theme: Joy**

Joy is an attribute of God's divine love. To reflect God in our family life, we are called to be joyful by developing our relationship with Christ.

Breaking Open the Theme

It is often remarked that faith is caught more than taught in the family. One of the best ways faith is caught is through joy. Joy is not an emotion that can be faked or forced. There is something authentic about it that points to a deeper reality.

Joy should be part of the regular fabric of Christian life. The Lord promises his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (Jn 16:22), and we are instructed by St. Paul to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4).

But how is it possible to be joyful when there is sorrow in our lives? The answer is that joy in its deepest sense is not dependent on positive circumstances or upbeat feelings. Joy means having an encounter (encuentro) with God's infinite love for us, which is always present in our lives. It "adapts and changes, but always endures," even amid great sorrow. It takes the form of a quiet assurance, a reminder that we are God's beloved sons and daughters. At other times, joy means that one "rejoices with the truth" (1 Cor 13:6), praising aloud the Lord and thanking him for his gifts. But above all, joy comes from "an expansion of the heart" through prayer and gestures of love toward others, creating a bright, warm and cheerful atmosphere.

Meditation From Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*

The expression "chairei epi te adikía" ["rejoice over wrongdoing"] (1 Cor 13:6). has to do with a negativity lurking deep within a person's heart. It is the toxic attitude of those who rejoice at seeing an injustice done to others. The following phrase expresses its opposite: sygchairei te aletheía: "it rejoices in the right". In other words, we rejoice at the good of others when we see their dignity and value their abilities and good works. This is impossible for those who must always be comparing and competing, even with their spouse, so that they secretly rejoice in their failures.

When a loving person can do good for others, or sees that others are happy, they themselves live happily and in this way give glory to God, for "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others. If we fail to learn how to rejoice in the well-being of others and focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence, for, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them.

1. What are some joys we have experienced in our family? Are there ways to build upon these joys to create a more joyful home?
2. In what ways could we add more joy to our family? Could we be more cheerful in giving and complain less? Could we focus less on our own needs and more on the happiness of a family member? Could we rejoice in our family's love by affirming each other more with compliments? Could we smile more at our family members?
3. Do we base our lives on the joyful awareness that we are beloved sons and daughters of God, or do we let something rob us of the joy of the Gospel? What is it that robs us? Is it anxiety, fear or impatience? How might prayer help with these things?

Scripture Reading — Psalm 33:1-7, 20-22 A prayer of praise and rejoicing before the Lord

Family Project

Put joy into practice by singing together advent and Christmas hymns, hosting an advent or Christmas party with special treats, and reading a Christmas story out loud. The story could be Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* or a book more suitable for young children, like *The Legend of the Poinsettia* by Tomie dePaola.

Also consider creating a family book of favorite religious hymns and carols. Have each family member choose a song that they enjoy and make copies to share. Then sing together advent and Christmas songs at times that are convenient. For instance, a family could sing before its family prayer, before bed, before lighting the advent wreath, before opening presents at Christmas, or at another time. If you have young children, sing a few simple songs to them so they can begin to learn the lyrics.