

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Knights of Columbus, Council  
7450, Concord, NC

Charity \* Unity \*  
Fraternity \* Patriotism

December 2020

## 2020-2021 Officers

### Worthy Grand Knight

Joseph Amodeo, Sr.

### Worthy Chaplain

Fr. Jerome Chavarria, C.Ss.R.

### Worthy Deputy Grand Knight

Jeff Mathews

### Worthy Chancellor

Jos Ernst

### Worthy Recorder

Al Servicky

### Worthy Financial Secretary

Bob Wheeler

### Worthy Treasurer

Joe Andruzzi

### Worthy Advocate

Dennis DeVito

### Worthy Warden

Gustavo Gallo

### Worthy Inside Guard

Barry Bertolette

### Worthy Outside Guard

Bobby Klimas Jr

### Worthy Trustees

Charles Anzalone, John  
Green, Gerard Mc Elroy

## Service Programs

### Program Director

C Anzalone 704-490-3796

### Council Director

Jeff Mathews 704-890-4237

### Faith Director

Gustavo Gallo 704-491-0876

### Community Director

Bias Esparza 980-621-8454

### Health Services Director

Joe Amodeo 980-781-4428

### Family Director

Tim Chase (608)695-6678

### Life Director

Joe Andruzzi 704-796-0075

### Membership

Joe Ernst 314-368-2853

### Retention

Ted Cormier 704-608-4357

Lecturer — Matt Telera

## Council 7450 Meeting Tuesday December 8, 2020



### *Knights Blood Drive*

Next drive is Sunday, December 6th. Come give the gift of life! Tell your friends and neighbors, all are welcome! You can still support LAMB. During this



time You may write a check to LAMB Foundation. Mail the check to St. James c/o KofC 139 Manor Av. Concord 28025.



During this pandemic we are all urged to wash our hands frequently for at least 20 seconds. To time this washing process we are being told to sing Happy Birthday once or twice. But if we substitute a Hail Mary, the Lords prayer, or both. This way we could be praying for

those lost to this virus, those effected by it, for health café workers, and even for a vaccine. A better choice than Happy Birthday.



*If you, a brother Knight or parishioner of St. James are in need of help picking up groceries or medications, please call DGK Jeff Mathews 704-890-4237 and he will arrange assistance during these unusual times.*



Poster Contest for kids 5-14. Entries must be on 11x17 paper and completed by

the entrant. Gift Cards will be awarded to winners!



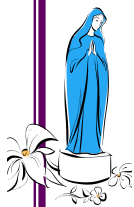
Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass will be at 7PM on Monday evening and Tuesday 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM Spanish.

We are still under dispensation for Mass attendance, therefore, you do not need to sign up for Masses on December 7th or 8th (Immaculate Conception) as you are not obligated to attend. The Monday night Mass at 7 pm will be live streamed.



Next Knights Breakfast  
PENDING

## Knights of Faith



Knights have always been dedicated to Our Lady. Pray the Rosary daily..... Select your intention. Pray as a family or by yourself. Attend the Monday Novena, Rosary 6:30

In Memory of Knights Mass for departed Brothers:

Dennis Durand—5PM 12/5

All deceased:

Saturday, 3/13 2021 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 6/26/2021 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 9/11 2021 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 12/11 2021 - 5 p.m.





# December—Why December 25



“Although the date of Christ’s birth is not given to us in Scripture, there is documented evidence that December 25 was already of some significance to Christians pri-



It’s that time of year again when many Christians encounter claims that pagan deities predating Jesus Christ were born on December 25. In popular films, Internet videos, and other media you can find long lists of gods who were supposedly born on the same day.

This idea is not limited to unbelievers. I have heard many Christians claim that the date of Christmas was intended to provide an alternative to pagan celebrations. In some ways it has become a pious legend. On the other hand, some Fundamentalist denominations refuse to celebrate Christmas for this reason.

Of all the deities of whom people make this claim, only three can be found to come close: Saturn, Sol Invictus (Unconquered Sun), and Mithras.

## Saturnalia

Saturnalia was the feast dedicated to the Roman god Saturn. Established around 220 B.C., this feast was originally celebrated on December 17. Eventually the feast was extended to last an entire week, ending on December 23. The supposed connection to Christmas is based on the proximity of the two festivals to each other.

This can be found repeatedly on the Internet. In his article *Saturnalia: The Reason We Celebrate Christmas in December*, columnist Mark Whittington explains:

It has been suggested that Christians in the 4th Century assigned December 25th as **Christ’s birthday (and hence Christmas)** because pagans already observed this day as a holiday. In this way the problem of eliminating an already popular holiday would be sidestepped, thus making the Christianizing of the population easier.

If the suggestion were correct, one would expect to find at least a single reference by early Christians to support it. Instead we find scores of quotations from Church Fathers indicating a desire to distance themselves from pagan religions.

## Sol Invictus and Mithras

The feast of Sol Invictus was the attempt by the Roman emperor Aurelian to reform the cult of Sol, the Roman sun god, and and reintroduce it to his people, inaugurating **Sol’s temple and holding games for the first time in A.D. 274**. Not only was this festival not annual, it also cannot be historically documented as having been established on December 25 by Aurelian (cf. Steven Hijmans, *Sol Invictus, The Winter Solstice, and the Origins of Christmas*, Mouseion, Series III, vol. 3, pp. 377-398).

According to inscriptions on candle votives and other ancient works of art, there is a link between Mithras and Sol Invictus. In

some cases it appears the Mithraists believed that Mithras and Sol were two different manifestations of the same god. In others they appear to be two gods united as one. These connections are difficult to understand given our limited knowledge of the Mithraic belief system, but they are important because they help to explain why skeptics claim the birthday of Mithras was celebrated on December 25.

A manuscript known as the *Chronography of 354* shows the birth of Sol Invictus being celebrated on December 25. Given the fact that the Mithraists equated their god with Sol in one way or another, it is understandable that they may have appropriated the date as their own. The problem for the skeptic is that no evidence exists to suggest that Aurelian was a Mithraist, or that he even had Mithraism in mind when he instituted the feast of Sol Invictus. The connection of Mithra to December 25 is only coincidental.

The deathblow to both the Mithras and Sol Invictus parallels is that the *Chronography of 354* is the earliest mention of any pagan god being celebrated on December 25. The celebration of the birth of Christ by Christians is also mentioned on the calendar as having been celebrated on that day, which diminishes the likelihood that the pagan feast came first. At the very least, it negates the claim that it can be proved from the historical record that any December 25 pagan festival predates the Christian tradition.

## The Reason for Choosing December 25

**Although the date of Christ’s birth is not given to us in Scripture, there is documented evidence that December 25 was already of some significance to Christians prior to A.D. 354.** One example can be found in the writings of Hyppolytus of Rome, who explains in his *Commentary on the book of Daniel* (c. A.D. 204) that the Lord’s birth was believed to have occurred on that day:

For the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when he was born in Bethlehem, was December 25th, Wednesday, while Augustus was in his forty-second year, but from Adam, five thousand and five hundred years. He suffered in the thirty-third year, March 25th, Friday, the eighteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, while Rufus and Roubellion were Consuls.

The reference to Adam can be understood **in light of another of Hyppolytus’ writings, the Chronicon**, where he explains that Jesus was born nine months after the anniversary of Creation. According to his calculations, the world was created on the vernal equinox, March 25, which would mean Jesus was born nine months later, on December 25. Nineteenth-century liturgical scholar Louis

Duchesne explains that “towards the end of the third century the custom of celebrating the birthday of Christ had spread throughout the whole Church, but that it was not **observed everywhere on the same day**” (*Christian Worship, Its Origin and Evolution: a study of the Latin liturgy up to the time of Charlemagne*, p. 260).

In the West, the birth of Christ was celebrated on December 25, and in the East on January 6.

**Duchesne writes “one is inclined to believe that the Roman Church made choice of the 25th of December in order to enter into rivalry with Mithraism. This reason, however, leaves unexplained the choice of the 6th of January” (ibid., p. 261).** His solution, therefore, was that the date of Christ’s birth was decided by using as a starting point the same day on which he was believed to have died. This would explain the discrepancies between the celebrations in the East and West. Given the great aversion on the part of some Christians to anything pagan, the logical conclusion here is that one celebration has nothing to do with the other. In his book, *Spirit of the Liturgy*, Pope Benedict XVI explains:

The claim used to be made that December 25 developed in opposition to the Mithras myth, or as a Christian response to the cult of the unconquered sun promoted by Roman emperors in the third century in their efforts to establish a new imperial religion. However, these old theories can no longer be sustained. The decisive factor was the connection of creation and **Cross, of creation and Christ’s conception** (p. 105-107).

While these explanations of how December 25 came to be the date of Christmas are all plausible, we know one thing for sure: The evidence that this day held a special significance to Christians predates the proof of a supposed celebration of Sol Invictus or other pagan deities on that day.

That the Christians chose a date so close to the winter solstice is also not proof that this was done to mimic pagan festivals. The various pagan religions all had festivals spanning the calendar. Whatever month the early Christians might have otherwise chosen would still place Christmas near some pagan celebration, and oppositional theorists would still be making the same claims.

The solstice was important to everyone for agricultural reasons in the same way water is important to the survival of human beings, and so we see rituals involving water showing up in various religions. That doesn’t prove that one borrowed the idea or theme from another.

-Jon Sorenson, Catholic Answers



Brothers, Hope all is well with you and your families... I would like to take this time to let you know what activities and events our Council has completed, is currently planning, or hosting in the near future.

To start, our Council has just sponsored our successful 2020 Joseph Kuntz Memorial Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our generous fellow parishioners and brothers donated 150 turkeys, hams, along with other menu items including stuffing, potatoes, yams, rice, canned vegetables, pies, rolls, snack items, etc. We were grateful for all of the food collected for our Drive; with the current pandemic we are in we could not be sure of the need nor the response for donations- we were pleasantly thankful for the great response of our parish. Our Brothers stepped up and assisted with the collection and distribution of food; we had over 250 man-hours of time volunteered by our Brother Knights and Sister Columbiettes; we are appreciative of their time and efforts. I also wanted to thank our Brothers who may not have been able to assist; however they donated funds, purchased K of C Christmas cards, donated food for our Drive, or supported our Council Food Drive in any way. All necessary safety precautions were taken to make the Food Drive as safe as possible. We provided meals to over 90 families and will use the remaining items for a Christmas distribution; we will also be providing meals to the Salvation Army Shelter in Concord, Cabarrus County Children's Orphanage and My Father's Home.

I would like to share the generous comments from our K of C State of NC Warden John Nussbaum- " Thank you so much for sharing the great work that your Council is doing during this pandemic. Keep up the great work; you and your Brother Knights are definitely making a difference." The State is also asking us to submit a write-up to include our events in their monthly Newsletter to all Councils.

Our Parish Blood Drive will be on Sunday, December 6 from 8:00 AM-12:30 PM. Please consider donating if you are able. Thank you to our Brothers who assist with our Blood Drives and those that take the time to donate to save precious lives.

The Council has decided not to hold our annual Christmas celebration, due to the COVID pandemic. In lieu of the Christmas Party, we are asking our Brothers to share the funds normally spent on our holiday celebration on three organizations that we partner with and assist annually. MiraVia, a Catholic nonprofit pregnancy support organization that assists pregnant women regardless of their economic, social, religious, racial, or ethnic background. The other organizations are the Cabarrus County Children's Home/ Orphanage in Kannapolis and the Salvation Army Shelter in Concord. We would like to give our Brothers the opportunity to help these worthwhile local organizations on a personal level. Our Council is purchasing gift baskets for widows of our Deceased Brothers and also to our Brothers who are currently ill or hospitalized. We would like to show our appreciation to them and what they mean to us. Our Brothers volunteer their time at the Salvation Army Shelter in Concord in the last two weeks of December; assisting the Shelter in preparing meals for residents. Our Council will partner with Mike's Bikes (a local non profit) once again this year- to donate funds and time to the organization in providing bikes to children in our community for Christmas.

On the fundraising front, we are currently planning our Craft Show (April) and our Car Show (June). We would like to also include the Columbiettes and other groups within our parish to join us for these fun events.

Our Brothers are assisting in fundraising for our LAMB program for Cabarrus County Special Ed children; hopefully over \$ 5,000 will be donated by our Council this year to this very worthwhile program. We feel blessed that we are able to assist since our fundraising efforts have been limited this year.

Thank you to our Brothers who are involved in assisting us in our fundraiser activities. Please note that all proceeds received from our fundraising efforts are provided to local charities we support (LAMB, Special Olympics, Childrens' Hospital (provide blankets,etc for children), Children's Home (Cabarrus Cty.), Mira Via (pregnancy support program), Wheelchairs for Veterans, Second Harvest Food Truck, Boy Scouts, etc). Our Council is planning to have an in-person exemplification at the next opportune time that will be safe for our Brothers and their families to join in the ceremony. We will ask and invite our Brothers that would like to be 3rd degree Knights to join us in the exemplification. Our Council will sponsor a Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest for children ages 5-14. By engaging the creative talents and imaginations of our young people, we hope they will come to a deeper understanding of the true spiritual meaning of Christmas. Prizes will be awarded to winning candidates.

Thank you to all of you for being a part of our Council Family and doing your part to make our Council the best it can be. I hope you and your families have a blessed, safe, and healthy Christmas and New Year.

God Bless you and your families.

Respectfully,

Joe Amodeo

GK K of C # 7450

# 845-234-8631

# December 2020



A Savior is born

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Officers Meeting				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Donate to St. James		Business Meeting –TELE Immaculate Conception				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Donate to LAMB						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Donate to St. James	FOOD Distribution 9:00-1:00 4-7:00 PM Geiger Hall			Christmas Eve Mass 1,3, 5 PM 12:30 Spanish	Merry Christmas Mass Mid-night, 8 & 10 12:30 Spanish	
27	28	29	30	31	1	
Donate to St. James				HAPPY NEW YEAR	NEW YEARS DAY 2021	

# For The Good Of The Order



Person In Need	Relation	Comment	Added By
S/K Bill Waterson	Brother Knight	cancer	3/2017
Jan Johnson	Wife of Brother Ken Johnson	illness	3/2020
Bill Suhy	Brother Knight	illness	8/2016
Dorothy Mathews	Brother Jeff Mathews Mother		8/2016
Mark Cormier	Son of Brother Ted	Serious illness	6/2020
S/K Dennis Durand	Brother Knight	Passed away	10/2020
Oppressed Christians			Supreme
S/K Eddie McEachern	Brother Knight	illness	8/2020
Eileen Guttridge	Wife of Bill	illness	7/2016
George McElroy	Brother of G/K Gerard	illness	10/16
Beverly <b>Kachmarik</b>	Wife of S/K Bob	cancer	5/18
Karen Hopper	Sister of Brother John Green	Cancer	8/2016
Jennaire Grannum	<b>Brother Bob Wheeler's neice</b>	illness	10/2020
George Coyle	Brother Knight	Illness	Council
Bill Blacklin	Brother Knight	illness	5/2018
Ron Mikesh	Brother Knight	Parkinsons	8/2016
David Crespi			Ken Johnson
Don Belofski	Brother Knight	Illness	9/17
Helen Servicky	Mother of S/K Al Servicky	illness	12/17
Linda Cawa	Wife of S/K Sal	illness	8/2020
S/K Sal Cawa	Brother Knight	illness	8/2020
S/K Richard Glass II	Brother Knight	Detached retina	
<b>Ted Cormier's sister</b>		Broken leg	6/2020
<b>Ted Comier's daughter in law</b>		Auto accident	6/2020
Clivia Chinn	<b>Brother Bob Wheeler's sister-in-law</b>	illness	10/2020
All those affected by Covid 19			



Everyone should have a Happy Thanksgiving...Through your generosity, many more will!

With the state of the world in this year, we could not be sure of the need nor response for donations. As usual, our parishioners were very generous. We collected donated food items on Saturday and Sunday before Thanksgiving. We received 130 Turkeys, 20 Hams, and cash donations. Along with these were the other menu items.



Originally we received request for food from 60 families from the parish and community. In total, on the day of distribution, we gave meals to 90 families. We will use the remaining items for a Christmas distribution. We will be providing food for some of the nights that St. James parishioners volunteer at the Salvation Army Night Shelter. **We also will be offering food to Cabarrus Children's Home/Orphanage and My Father's House in Kannapolis.**





Council 7450 graciously thanks these establishments for their past support of OPERATION L.A.M.B. Charitable Giving Days. We look forward to working with them in the future. Brothers, now it is our turn to support them during these uncertain times for small business. Please dine-in or order take out from our generous sponsors!

### EL AMIGO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

1776 S. Cannon Boulevard

Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083



704-938-1111

Vibrant Mexican eatery with an expansive menu, including fajitas, steak, burritos, plus margaritas.

Options: Dine-in; Outside Pickup; Takeout; Delivery

Atmosphere: Casual & Family oriented

### Rosario's PIZZA

### New York Style PIZZERIA

5303 Poplar Tent Rd. • Suite 130  
Concord, NC 28027

704-795-7199  
Fax: 704-795-7542



**DINE-IN  
TAKE-OUT  
DELIVERY  
CATERING  
BANQUETS**

3655 Concord Pkwy S.  
Concord, NC 28027

Phone: 704-795-7437  
Cell: 412-720-5357  
garofolasitaliano@gmail.com

Parkway House  
Restaurant

Parkway House Family Restaurant  
834 South Union Street  
Concord, NC  
Ph. 704-786-6200  
Mon-Fri - 6am - 9:30pm  
Sat+Sun - 7am - 9:30pm  
Open 7 Days A Week



**Billy Tzioros  
Owner/Manager**

Sun.: 11am - 8pm  
Mon.: Closed  
Tues. - Thur.: 11am - 9pm  
Fri. - Sat.: 11am - 9:30pm

Phone: 704-787-8377  
744 Cabarrus Ave W  
Concord, NC 28027  
Family-Owned & Operated



# Merry Christmas And Happy New Year

To all Brother Knights and your families



**Thank You for all you do to support  
The Church, Your Families, The Knights, and Community**

## Insurance Corner

### Long Term Care



Record numbers of people are living well into their 80s, 90s...and even past the age of 100. That translates into more time to do the things you want to do, to spend time with the people you love. It also poses new challenges. In aging, you change in some familiar ways — and some ways that might be completely unexpected. In your 60s and 70s, tasks and activities that you once performed routinely or with ease might become increasingly difficult. And, over time, you may need more and more assistance with such activities. You might also experience a sudden, acute need for such help after a debilitating illness — such as stroke. Everyone is potentially at risk. A 2005 study<sup>1</sup> found that 69% of people turning 65 years of age will need some long-term care before they die. Women are at a higher risk than men with 79% of women turning 65 years of age needing some long-term care and 58% of men turning 65 needing some long-term care. Among those turning 65 years of age, 44% will need less than 1 year; 30% will need 3-5 years; 12% will need 5 or more years. On average, private nursing home care can cost upwards of \$78,000 per year.<sup>2</sup> You may be able to manage with at-home nursing care. Yet this option, too, can be quite expensive: such services can cost over \$55,480 per year in the U.S.<sup>3</sup> for eight hours of service, 365 days a year. These figures can be expected to increase over time. 40% of those receiving Long-Term Care services are adults between the ages of 18 and 64.<sup>4</sup>

Knights of Columbus

Insurance Plans

Permanent Plans

Term Plans

Long Term Care

Annuities

Disability Income

Field Agent