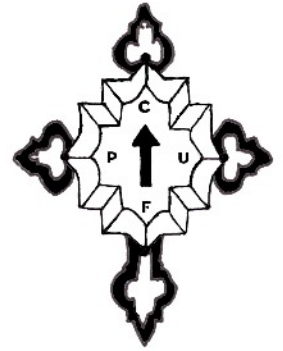




The Council Compass

Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444

Knights of Columbus



Editor: Paul Desroches

1899 - *Over 122 Years* - 2021

February 2022

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- Associate Chaplain: Fr. Fernando Hernandez
845-561-0885
- Associate Chaplain: Fr. John Vondras
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- Chancellor: Curt Bourdage (Pam)
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- Warden: Frank Gerbes (Mary)
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- Treasurer: I.Scott Watkins, PGK, (Bea)
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- Recorder: Joseph Dennis (Christina)
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What is Lent about?

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism. Preparation for Baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has reemphasized the baptismal character of Lent, especially through the restoration of the Catechumenate (the entire process of learning to be a Catholic), and its Lenten rituals. Our challenge today is to renew our understanding of this important season of the Church year and to see how we can integrate our personal practices into this renewed perspective.

Why is Baptism so important in our Lenten understanding? Lent as a 40-day season developed in the fourth century from three merging sources. The first was the ancient paschal fast that began as a two-day observance before Easter but was gradually lengthened to 40 days. The second was the catechumenate as a process of preparation for Baptism, including an intense period of preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation to be celebrated at Easter. The third was the Order of Penitents, which was modeled on the catechumenate and sought a second conversion for those who had fallen back into serious sin after Baptism. As the catechumens (candidates for Baptism) entered their final period of preparation for Baptism, the penitents and the rest of the community accompanied them on their journey and prepared to renew their baptismal vows at Easter.

Lent, then, is radically baptismal. In this Update we'll consider some of the familiar customs of Lent and show how we can renew some of our Lenten customs to bring forth the baptismal theme.

Why do some refer to Easter as Easter and others use Lent or Pentecost and what is the significance of each?

In the Catholic Church, the year is divided into liturgical seasons based on significant events in the life and earthly ministry of Jesus Christ as well as the great Mysteries of our Faith. The Church Year, as it is called, begins with Advent, which is celebrated as four weeks of preparation before Christmas.

Catholics are called to live liturgically by actually entering into the Church year. Such an approach to life and worship is not simply about re-enacting the great events of Salvation history - or what is called the "Paschal Mystery", the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rather, it is an invitation to all the baptized, living their lives now in the Church which is the Body of Christ and thus to enter into the deeper meaning of our faith; to experience our Salvation as an ongoing process as we cooperate with grace and allow the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead, to change us from within making us more like Him.

Easter, where we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, is preceded by Lent, a season of self-examination, fasting and penance in preparation for our Easter Day observance. So Lent is a 40 day period prior to Easter Day. Also, beginning the Sunday before Easter we have Holy Week, with Palm Sunday (also called Passion Sunday), Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

(Continued on page 3)

GRAND KNIGHT'S THOUGHTS

Dear Fellow Brother Knights:

I pray that all of you had a blessed, joyous and healthy Christmas as well as a happy and healthy New Year! I also pray that we can be rid of this horrible COVID pandemic this year. I can't wait to get back to some kind of normal. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, our Council is still moving on with most of our various activities. My thanks to all brothers who stepped up to make our special activities happen. I am extremely proud of the fact that for the second year in a row, our Council has received the Star Council Award from Supreme. This is even more astounding considering that we were able to accomplish this during the pandemic! My sincere thanks to all of our Brothers for making this happen.

On November 14, of last year, we honored our Brother Knights who passed away over the past year, with a Memorial Mass at Sacred Heart Church. My sincere thanks to all who helped to make this such a special occasion. Those honored were, Sir Knight Vincent Cincotta, Samuel Colavito, Sir Knight Dominick D'Aquino, Deacon Sir Knight Lawrence Kawula, Sir Knight Robert Spreer, and John Vandermark. May Our Lord continue to bless them all.

We also were able to continue with our "Coats for Kids" program. Due to the success of our fund raising programs we were able to increase our donation to 4 cases along with 2 additional cases made possible by an anonymous donor.

We were also able to celebrate our Council Christmas tree lighting with a Mass, followed by a resounding tree lighting ceremony. Everyone greatly enjoyed the soup dinner that followed.

We were able to close out the year with our Annual Christmas Party! Everyone had a wonderful time, especially the children! We were blessed with a special visit from Santa himself! Rumor has it that Santa is a fellow Knight!

Unfortunately, we did not have as much success with our activities in January. We had to cancel the basketball free throw contest and our Social Meeting Dinner due to the pandemic. However, we were able to continue with our Fifth Sunday Rosary on January 30, at Sacred Heart Church.

Once again, our February schedule of events has been decimated. We were forced to cancel our Saint Valentine's Day Dinner Dance as well as our Super Bowl party.

Please don't forget to mark your calendars for February 21, at 10 AM, for our Clergy thank you breakfast. It will be at Denny's Restaurant on Route 300. Please join us in showing our gratitude to our dedicated members of the Clergy for all they do for us during the year.

As of the publishing of this newsletter, our Annual Communion Breakfast is still scheduled for April 3, at the 10:30 AM Mass, at St. Patrick's Church in Newburgh. A brunch is scheduled immediately following at the Temple Hill Tavern in New Windsor. Hopefully the restaurant will be able to accommodate our group. As we get closer to the date, I will confirm if we are a go.

Even though it's very early, plans are underway for our Annual Car Show in June. Our sponsors are on board and planning is actively underway. I will make sure to keep everyone informed as additional information becomes available. The 2021 version was very successful and everyone had a fabulous time! I urge you to try it out. Give PGK Ken Ryan a call and see if there is a job that is good for you. We need lots of volunteers for set up, take down, crowd control, ticket selling, general coordination activities and many more. You can reach Ken at 845-565-8015.

We are also looking for help with our Annual Columbus Day Ball. I urge everyone to get involved with this event. It has grown so much in the last few years that we need additional people to help out. Please give Bill Kuntz a call at 201-697-9920, and find out about all the different jobs we need filled. I am positive you will find one that is just right for you.

One last thing, if you have tested positive for the virus and are in quarantine, please do not visit the Council House until your quarantine period is over and you test negative. We just recently spent a lot of money to sanitize the House, I really don't want to have to do it again. Thanks so much for your understanding and cooperation.

May the Good Lord continue to bless all of you and your families. Thank you all for your service to Council 444.

Vivat Jesus!
Ray Lopez
Grand Knight

Easter is also a season that lasts 50 days and ends on Pentecost Sunday, which is an observance based on the second chapter of the Book of Acts where the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles. This day is considered the birthday of the Church.

Why do we put ashes on our forehead?

Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" emphasizes our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolizes our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross. The work of our redemption will not be complete until we are raised from the dead, in resurrected bodies like His own and called to the eternal communion of heaven.

Giving something up

For most older Catholics, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. In my childhood, the standard was to give up candy, a discipline that found suitable reward in the baskets of sugary treats we received on Easter. Some of us even added to the Easter surplus by saving candy all through Lent, stockpiling what we would have eaten had we not promised to give it up.

Some years ago a friend of mine told me that he had urged his children to move beyond giving up candy to giving up some habit of sin that marked their lives. About halfway through Lent he asked the children how they were doing with their Lenten promise. One of his young sons had promised to give up fighting with his brothers and sisters during Lent. When his father asked him how it was going, the boy replied, "I'm doing pretty good, Dad—but boy, I can't wait until Easter!"

That response indicates that this boy had only partly understood the purpose of Lenten "giving up." Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ. For catechumens, Lent is a period intended to bring their initial conversion to completion.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The key to renewed appropriation of these practices is to see their link to baptismal renewal.

Prayer: More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.

Fasting: Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, the paschal fast predates Lent as we know it. The early Church fasted intensely for two days before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Vatican II called us to renew the observance of the ancient paschal fast: "...let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind".

Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. Thus fasting, too, is linked to living out our baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

Abstaining from meat traditionally also linked us to the poor, who could seldom afford meat for their meals. It can do the same today if we remember the purpose of abstinence and embrace it as a spiritual link to those whose diets are sparse and simple. That should be the goal we set for ourselves—a sparse and simple meal. Avoiding meat while eating lobster misses the whole point!

Almsgiving: It should be obvious at this point that almsgiving, the third traditional pillar, is linked to our baptismal commitment in the same way. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized.

A Blessed and very happy birthday to the following council members who will be celebrating their birthdays in the months of February, March and April 2022.

02/06 Michael Sayegh	02/09 Raymond Filipkowski
02/09 Deacon Tom Neppel	02/10 Richard Sosa
02/15 James Roscher	02/16 Francis Bedetti
02/22 John Obrien Sr.	03/04 Curtis Moran
03/05 Jean Devis	03/06 Francis Cook
03/09 Mark Connell	03/16 William Kuntz
03/21 Ralph Depew Jr.	03/21 Carl Hamilton
03/25 Rev. Patrick Bonner	03/25 Deacon Peter Haight
03/26 Domingo Ampil	03/26 Brian Doyle
03/27 Peter Vondras	03/29 Thomas Curtis
04/02 An Pham	04/04 Angel Tapia
04/06 Alberto Laudato	04/09 Leonard Mc Cue
04/13 Mark deCastro	04/17 Richard Irons
04/18 Kennan Ryan	04/18 Charles Smithj
04/19 John Hanley	04/19 Robert Markel
04/20 Kevin Butler	04/25 Dominick Galage

Council Activities

6th Annual Super Bowl Party

CANCELLED

Sunday, February 13, 2022

O'Connor Hall

Saint Francis of Assisi Church
Basement

Anytime after 4 PM till it's over
\$5 per person or food donation
Games for kids, football pools and
50/50 raffle. BYOB

Call Bill Kuntz, 201-697-9920 to
RSVP

St. Valentine's Day Dance

CANCELLED

Saturday, February 12, 2022

6:30 - 10:30

Temple Hill Tavern

171 Temple Hill Road

Vails Gate, N.Y. 12553

\$40.00 PP/ \$50 at the door

RSVP Bill Kuntz 201-697-9920

By February 3, 2022. Featuring DJ Ming
and a cash bar

Communion Breakfast

Sunday April 3, 2022

St. Patrick's Church - 10:30 Mass
Brunch immediately following at Temple
Hill Restaurant and Catering

\$25.00 per person

10 and under are free

Guest Speaker is Bishop Colacicco

Contact Joe Coyle 845-561-7384

Joe Dennis 845-565-7646

Calendar of Council Meetings

Please Note:

***Until further notice all meetings
will be held at 8:00 PM in person
and on Zoom***

Please call Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920 if you have
not received a Zoom invite via email.

- 01 Feb: Membership meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 08 Feb: Fourth Degree meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 15 Feb: Social meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 22 Feb: Officers' business meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 01 Mar: Membership meeting at 8 P.M.
- 08 Mar: Fourth Degree meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 15 Mar: Social meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 22 Mar: Officers' business meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 29 Mar: Corporation meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 05 Apr: Membership meeting at 8:00 PM
- 12 Apr: Fourth Degree meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 19 Apr: Social meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 26 Apr: Officers' meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 03 May: Membership Meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 10 May: Fourth Degree meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 17 May: Social meeting at 8:00 P.M.
- 24 May: Officers' meeting at 8:00 P.M..
- 31 May: Corporation Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Please note that the Holy Rosary will be recited
prior to each council meeting at 7:30. All are
welcome.

JOIN US TO THANK OUR CLERGY

February 21, 2022 10 A.M.

Denny's Restaurant, 1283 Route 300

Contact: Greg Gaetano 845-629-2722

Bishop Dominick and our Priests and
Deacons have been invited.

(Please remember that our Clergy are
our guests and as such we all chip in to
pay their tab as well as our own.

Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry

Need volunteers on Saturday mornings from
8:30 A.M. to Noon. Note that the food pantry
has moved to the Sacred Heart gym. If you can
help please note that set up starts at 7 AM. If
you have questions, please call Linda or Paul at
845-234-8564.

St. Mary's Outreach

St. Mary's Outreach has opened at the
Newburgh Community Center (Armory). They
will operate on the same schedule as before, the
third Friday of every month. Set up at 8 AM and
the distribution starts at 9.