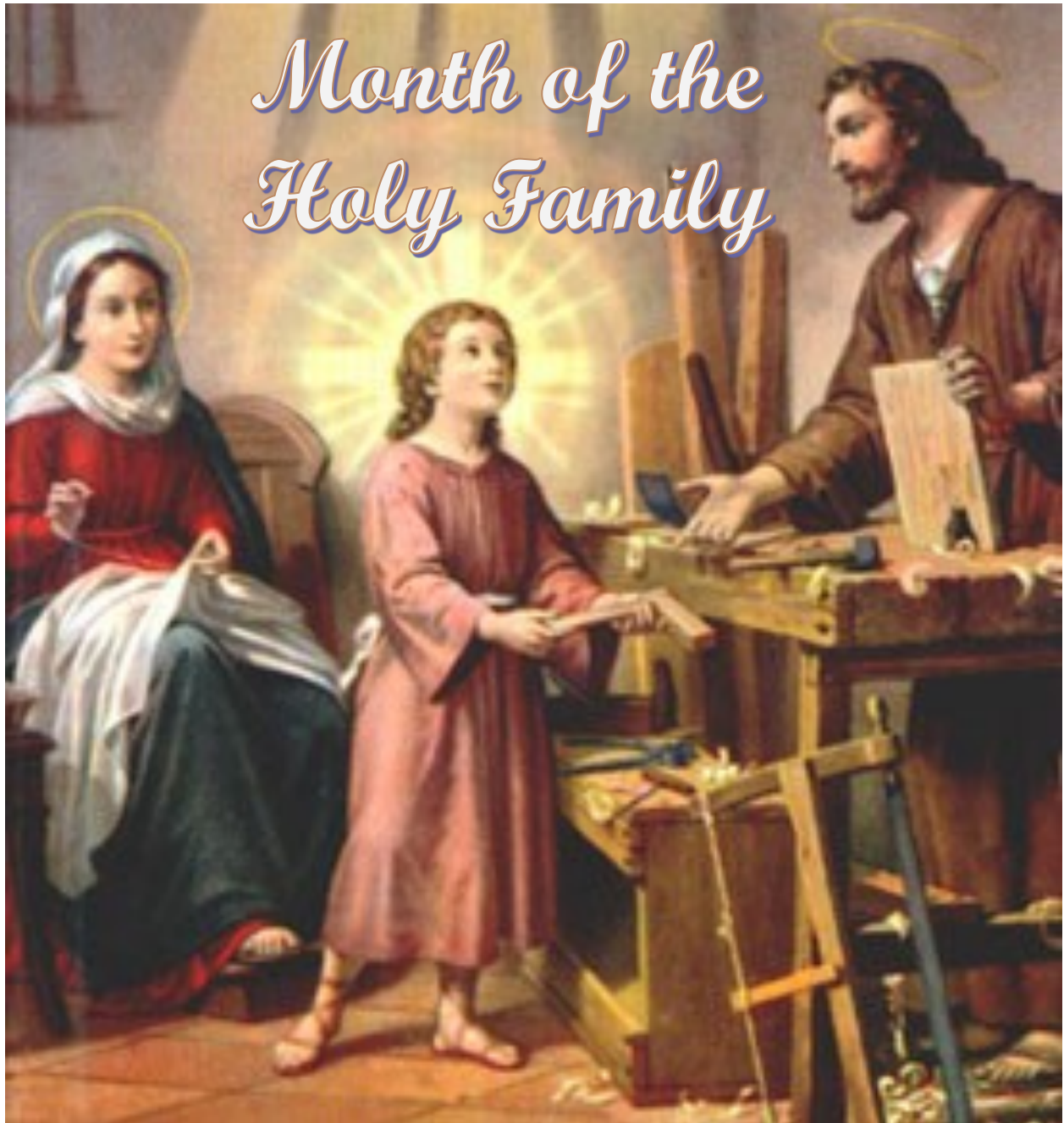




Knight Worthy News

St. Joseph Council 10627, High Bridge, New Jersey

February
2024



Month of the Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you and give you peace! ~ Numbers 6: 24—26 ~

Grand Knight's Message

Worthy Brothers,

The first month of 2024 is already in the books. That means we are one month closer to some warmer weather. I hope that everyone is staying healthy.

On January 6th, I attended the mid-year Grand Knight's meeting with DGK Mark Kucharski and Membership Director Tom O'Farrell at St. James Church in Basking Ridge. Membership was one of the main talking points of the meeting. New Jersey is close to achieving Circle of Honor status with the number of members across the state that we have coming into the Order to date. The State Deputy wants everyone to keep their foot on the gas with membership. If any brothers have anyone in mind who you might have been thinking of asking to join the Order, please ask them, or follow up with them if you have already started a conversation about joining. Additionally, our District Deputy has challenged all his Councils in his district to bring in two new members for a live Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUF) Degree in mid-March at St. Catherine of Sienna Church in Pittstown. Signing up a new member is a quick process using this website: <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>.

Brother and Life Director, Rich Mirocco, was supposed to receive the Diocese of Metuchen Pro Vita Award at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi on January 21st but was unable to attend in person. Arrangements are being made to have this award presented to Rich at a Mass at St. Joseph Church in the near future. More details will follow when they are available.

Brothers Bob Hugelmeyer and Sean Rogan ran our annual Spelling Bee at St. Joseph Church on January 21st. The event went well and had a good turnout. Thank you, brothers Bob and Sean, for running this event.

On January 26th, Family Director, Joe Gallico, ran our Pizza on the Knights event. We had roughly thirty people in attendance, between brothers and their family members. It was great to see a lot of brothers and their families at this event. We had some great food, drink, and conversation. Thank you, brother Joe, for putting on this event.

February 14th is Ash Wednesday which starts Lent. There will be many events and other things happening at both parishes throughout Lent. Please be sure to take a copy of the bulletin from each parish each week to see what events are taking place.

On Sunday, February 25th, we will have our Family Bowling outing at Oakwood Lanes in Washington, which is run by our Family Director, Joe Gallico. More information will be available as the event gets closer.

I would like to thank our Financial Secretary, Andrew Rispoli, for getting the semi-annual audit, various Fraternal Program Reports, and the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity completed and submitted. January was a very busy month for Andrew. Thank you, Andrew.

The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity shows that in 2023 brothers volunteered 8,893 hours of service to the many Fraternal Programs of Faith, Family, Community, and Life. Thank you, brothers, for your time and service to our Council and our communities.

As we start our Lenten journey this month, let us take some time to reflect on what this journey means to us and how it can help bring us closer to God and strengthen our faith. If possible, I suggest trying to attend one of the events or talks that will be offered during Lent as I am certain they will be beneficial to anyone who attends.

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.

Vivat Jesus,

Christopher J. Dietrich, Grand Knight

Fraternal News

- ◆ Brother Andrew Rispoli recently contacted our former Chaplain, Fr. Frederick Otieno Nyan-guf. "Fr. Fred," sends his



"Greetings and blessings from Kenya" and tells us, **"I am doing well, thank God."** He thanks us for our continued prayers.

Fr. Fred is a priest in the Apostles of Jesus missionary order that was founded in 1968. The order has minor seminaries in Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya, where they also have a major seminary for the study of philosophy and theology and a shrine in Langata, a suburb of Nairobi.

Fr. Fred became a Knight in our council in 2004 when he was at the Blue Army Shrine. He returned to Kenya in 2010. When the order celebrated its golden jubilee in 2017, he was the order's Vicar General.

(www.allentowndiocese.org/news/apostles-jesus-missionaries-mark-golden-jubilee)

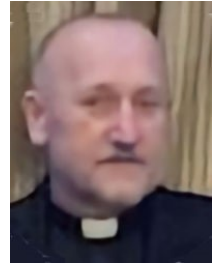
On December 18, Fr. Fred celebrated his own jubilee—25 years as priest!

Congratulations Fr. Fred!



- ◆ **"Welcome back"** to Past Grand Knight Wayne McKay who returned to St. Joseph Council after a few years at Our Lady of Lourdes Council in Whitehouse.

- ◆ **Welcome also** to Fr. Krzysztof (Kris) Kaczynski, our Council Chaplain, who transferred from the Delaware Valley Council in Milford



- ◆ **"Farewell"** to brother Jim Wilmott who moved to Pennsylvania and transferred to a local council.

- ◆ Our founding Grand Knight, Bruce Teeling sent a New Year's greeting to council members. (Brother Bruce now lives in North Carolina.)
- ◆ Former council member Mike Mastro sent a recent message to us extending **"Many blessings to my northern brothers."** Brother Mike moved to Virginia several years ago and transferred to the Chesapeake Council 8240. Mike is now their



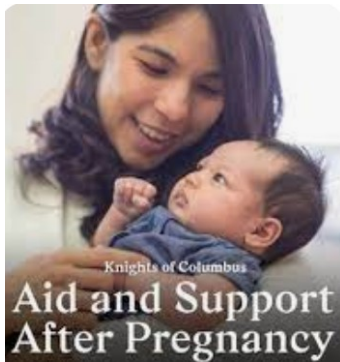
Deputy Grand Knight. Brother Mike is also active in the 4th Degree Assembly 2185 at Prince of Peace and St Stephen Martyr Catholic Church in Chesapeake, VA.

Please contact Council Fraternal Concerns Activity Director Bill Honachefsky, Jr. to report any council member in need of our prayers or help!
william.honachefskyjr@hotmail.com



LIFE ACTIVITIES

The photo at right shows Rich Mirocco, council Life Activities Director, presenting a \$400 check to Joan Fasenello, Director of Life Choices in Phillipsburg. It's the latest check from the Knights of Columbus Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program.



Rich explains, "From September through December 2023, we delivered \$4731.08 worth of baby items, mostly baby food and formula to Life Choices. We get them from the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton and the Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen. Those two agencies receive donations of baby items



but don't always have a demand for them. So they make them available to us. Thanks to George Mehaffey (at the Food Pantry) and my relationship with the Resource Center, we are able to donate the excess items to Life Choices. Then the Supreme Council supplements our work with cash for the ! This is the second check of \$400 we have been able to give to Life Choices through ASAP, and there is more pending."

When Rich and his wife, Linda, pickup the excess baby items in at the Resource Center in Metuchen, or when George Mehaffey drops off the excess baby items from the Open Cupboard Food Pantry at St. Joseph Church, Rich inventories them and then he & Linda deliver them to Life Choices in Phillipsburg. Rich reports that, "We're doing that once or twice per month or more often as needed."



Brother Don Branflick reports that the **Food for Families** effort he's coordinated for the council for many years may have established a **one-day delivery record** from ShopRite and it's customers to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry on January 23.

Food Donation Receipt
Open Cupboard Food Pantry
 37 Old Highway 22
 P.O. Box 5071
 Clinton, NJ 08809
 (908) 730-7320

Perishable _____ Non-Perishable _____
 Fresh Fruit/Veggies _____ Bakery Goods _____
 Other: _____

WE DO NOT ACCEPT:
 Expired, Opened or Homemade Items

Total lbs. 1450 Date: 1-23-24

Pantry Representative: [Signature]
 The donor is responsible for determining the value of the donation for a deduction.

"Brothers Wayne McKay, Bob Keeling and I delivered 1,450 pounds of food to the open cupboard pantry this morning."

1,450 pounds! 3/4 ton! IN ONE DAY!

Ponder that a moment! When was the last time any of us handled 3/4 ton of food stuff—OR anything—on a single day? It's a lot and **Don needs help.**

Don's team currently includes council members John Hanly, Joe Gallico, Tom Newman, Wayne McKay, Kevin Teeling, Mario Bernardo and Ron Dietrich, as well as parishioners & friends of St. Joseph Council: George Mehaffey, Bob Keeling, MaryJean Fiore, Frank Pumillo, Deborah Guevara and Bob Shepherd.

The council THANKS each of them!

But can YOU can help?

Really?! Can you?

WILL YOU?

Please call Don at (908) 256-4560 if you are available on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



Many thanks to council Family Director brother Joe Gallico for another “**Pizza on the Knights**” evening in St. Joseph Church Hall. Council members and their family who attended enjoyed some of the world’s best tasting and (arguably!) one of the best “health foods.”

Thanks also to the members and their family members who helped at the event.

(Chris Dietrich Photos)



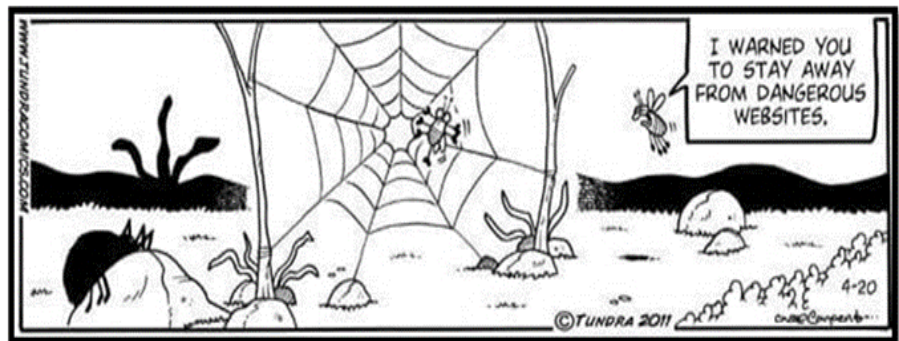
NEXT UP!

Family Bowling

⇒ **Sunday**

⇒ **February 25th**

⇒ **Oakwood Lanes**





Birthdays

John Gearity February 3
 John Gargas February 15
 Don Branflick February 14
 Mylene Mariano February 17
 Cindy Titus February 20
 Mark Kucharski February 22
 Mark Ayotte February 22
 Ann Whalen February 23
 Mike Uss February 28

Anniversaries

Peter & Kathy Sandrian
 February 13
 Mario & Deborah Bernardo
 February 18
 Sean & Monika Boyle
 February 20

(Area Code 908 unless otherwise noted)

Officers:

Grand Knight	Chris Dietrich	797-0243
Chaplain	Fr. Kris Kaczynski	638-6211
Deputy G. K.	Mark Kucharski	323-0479
Chancellor	Bill Honachefsky	328-9631
Recorder	Tom Waldron	391-0284
Fin. Sec.	Andrew Rispoli	(973) 417-3429
Treasurer	Rich Mirocco	892-8252
Advocate	Mike DiMeo	892-7572
Warden	Jim Codd	892-1089
Inside Guard	Tom O'Farrell	246-7507
Outside Guard	Mike Krochta	500-0478

Trustees:

Tom Klawunn, PGK	246-3722
Mario Bernardo, PGK	797-6344
Tom Corrado, PGK	328-9440

Faith In Action Program Directors:

Faith	Tom Klawunn, PGK	246-3722
Family	Joe Gallico	507-6420
Community	VACANT	
Life	Rich Mirocco	892-8252

Fraternal Programs Directors:

Program	Mark Kucharski	323-0479
Membership	Tom O'Farrell	246-7507

Dist. Deputy: Michael Iannozzi 328-6605

Ins. Agent: Gerry Tatarka (973) 713-3394

The Council Calendar is at:



Or select **Council Calendar**
 drop down at www.kofc10627.org

