

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Brother Knights,

Thank you to all who participated in our 2005 COAL campaign. We actually did a little better than our last year total of 100 books sold, and as you know, every dime we make goes into the Council's Scholarship fund. Best of luck to you all! The drawing will be held December 10th. Wouldn't a new car or nice vacation make a wonderful added Christmas gift for yourselves?

The deadline for State Scholarship applications (Dec. 31st) is fast approaching. There is considerable verification (school, church, council) that needs to be done on these applications, so time is now of the essence. If interested, call 570-629-6797 for an application.

Our own scholarship applications are now available at the church office. To "level the playing field", since these scholarships are now open to all Queen of Peace registered graduating seniors, they will no longer be available in the guidance offices of Pleasant Valley and Notre Dame. They may be obtained by calling 570-992-6796. No applications postmarked after April 1st, 2006 will be considered.

By now, everyone who owes dues should have received their 2006 dues notice. Please make every effort to return your dues in a timely fashion. Don't forget our new January 15th deadline. Should you need a reminder after that date, you will have to pay \$23.00, or \$12.00 if you are an honorary life member because of the late fee being added. Please be reminded, this is still the Council's largest source of revenue annually; so even if you can't be active in Council activities as you like to be, or are inactive by choice, your dues still help our council fulfill its pledge of charity.

Christmas is fast approaching. Don't you just love this time of the year: the music, the lights, the crisp winter air, the

cookies and cakes, the gathering of friends and family; yes, even the long lines, the jammed parking lots, the overworked frazzled cashiers. All the previous weeks of chaos become worthwhile on Christmas morning, when we see the joy in our loved ones faces as they open that special gift. During this busy holiday season, let us not forget the real reason for this celebration, the greatest gift of all, the birth of God's Son. Everyone have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Fraternally yours,  
*Larry Decker, F. S.*

## CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Each year it seems that the stores start merchandising for Christmas earlier and earlier. The official start of Christmas shopping, in years past, used to be the day after Thanksgiving. This year I saw Christmas items and decorations in stores while shopping for Halloween goodies for the kids. Commercialism is fine and keeps the economy flowing. At the same time, I have noticed that the X is not as predominant as it has been in previous years. Yes, we are getting Christ back into Christmas. During this holy season please keep the spiritual part of Christmas in your minds and hearts.

Don't wait until Christmas Mass to get into the spirit. Start the month of December off by spending some time on First Friday evening in the chapel. Adoration is from 7 pm until 9 pm. You can attend for two hours or however long you would like. Don't you think that would be a great way to begin the Christmas season and put Christ back into Christmas? If you do stop by, you might be surprised at what it will do for you.



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*The Exchange*

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BRODHEADSVILLE PENNSYLVANIA



7141

December 2005

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Livia	Dec 1
Ken Amow	Dec 5
Alex Galante, PGK	Dec 10
Doug Myerchin	Dec 10
Jim Early	Dec 11
Dennis Machalick	Dec 13
Larry Decker	Dec 15
Tony Sucic	Dec 15
Barry McCue	Dec 16
Colby Burnett	Dec 17
Tom Sciandra	Dec 17
Stephen Fischer	Dec 19
Ralph Manento, PGK	Dec 20
Tom Healy	Dec 26
Larry DenLea	Dec 28
Larry Yozwiak	Dec 28
Gerard Rennekamp	Dec 29

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Susan & Mike Guercio Dec 31

## NOVEMBER KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Jim Andrews

## FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Donald Gower Family

## NEW THIRD DEGREE MEMBERS

Our congratulations to Mike Adams, Doug Myerchin, and Walter VanMetter on being exemplified into the Third Degree of the Order on, Sunday, November 6th at the Luzerne K of C home. Thank you Brothers, and you are now eligible to take your Fourth in June, if you so desire.



## ADVENT WREATH

An Advent Wreath is a ring of evergreen cuttings surrounding or integrating four candles; used during the Advent season. In our church it is placed in front of the altar with a candle being lit each of the four weekends before Christmas.

Three of the candles are violet colored and the fourth rose colored. The rose colored is lit the third week of Advent.

The wreath is meant to represent God's Eternity. The violet candles symbolize faithful expectation, and the rose candle joy and hope.



## CHRISTMAS MASS

The knowledge that the hustle and bustle of shopping is finally over! All of the presents are wrapped and ready to be distributed. We can now concentrate on the real meaning of Christmas.

The pleasant odor of the pine trees greets you as you enter the church. The dress code is that of people who are attending a wedding. The beautiful poinsettias are displayed in front of the altar. The lovely voices of our choir sings Christmas hymns before the start of the Mass. It is now time to give adoration to the birth of our Savior. This is Christmas Midnight Mass. A special Mass observed in a special way.

Please volunteer to serve as a Minister of Hospitality if you have a tux. It adds even more.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

*The Explorer* staff would like to wish all of you and your families and very Blessed and Merry Christmas! Steve and Joann make sure your mailing labels are up to date, Tom and Anne gather together what to write about, and Stan and Flo make sure everything gets mailed out.

*Joann and Steve Signorello  
Anne and Tom Whitehead  
Florence and Stanley Zaleski*



### BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

Youth Director Jim Nuyen has made arrangements for this year's K of C Basketball Free Throw Contest to be held on Saturday, January 7th at Pleasant Valley Elementary School in Brodheadsville. This contest is open to any male or female child from the ages of 10 to 14 years of age. They will compete with those in the same bracket as their own age and gender. The winners will advance to the District Competition and if they keep winning move to the regional, state, and national competition.

### A NIGHT AT THE RACES

The break that the adults of the parish need, after the holidays, will be served up by PGK Chris Sweeney on, Saturday, January 14th when he brings "A Night at the Races" back to our church hall. Doors open at 6 PM and tickets will be on sale the day after

Christmas, at the church office during regular working hours; or after weekend Masses. The cost remains at \$5 per ticket. The famous Nuncio Sloppy Joe's, hot dogs, pretzels, chips, and beverages are included in the ticket cost. Add another \$5 to your entry fee and you can be the proud owner of one of the horses; as an owner, if your horse wins the race you will receive a \$25 prize.

If this is your first time to this event be prepared to see some of the quietest people of our parish hollering loudly for their horse to win.

There will be ten races with ten horses in each race. The proceeds from the evening are used to sponsor the "March for Life" bus.

### MARCH FOR LIFE BUS

This article is going to very much to the point. We need participants to support the 34th Annual March for Life Rally being held in Washington, D. C. on Monday, January 23rd. Our council intends to send a bus to take part for the fifth straight year.

Unfortunately, many of those who attended with us before are unable to continue doing so because of the weather and the walk. It is now time for a new generation to take up the fight to convince the Supreme Court to overturn the Roe vs. Wade blunder. We are Catholics and we are a Pro Life religion. Many changes are taking place in the highest judicial court in our land. The Rally represents a demonstration that we are still alive and our wishes to keep unborn babies that way is for real.

If many of our Cardinals and Bishops can take time out of their schedules to take part, don't you think that you could make time? Join the 100,000 plus marchers from all around the country to voice the Pro Life way.

The cost is \$12.50 per seat and reservations can be made by telephoning Pro Life Director Deacon Bob O'Connor (610-681-5460) or PGK Tom Whitehead (570-646-8174).



Once again, your newsletter is reaching out for your input. If you are an officer or director who is working on a specific project that could be better explained through an article, write it up. An event has proven to be more successful when given the proper publicity. The deadline for January 2006 issue submission is December 20th. Advertisements deadline is December 15th.

We, also, ask that you purchase chances for the Flyers vs. Rangers game on March 2, 2006. The proceeds help to defray the printing and mailing cost of *The Explorer*.

*Editor*

### **BYLAWS CHANGES**

At the November regular business meeting the council approved the changes to the bylaws as presented with one additional change. The membership voted to increase the amount allowed to be granted through the Relief Fund from \$25 to \$50 by the Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer without council approval. This was explained as being a fund for current council members who have been verified as truly in need.

The forwarding of updated bylaws through the proper channels have taken place.

The revisions to our bylaws demonstrates our council's resolve to remain up to date in our pursuits. It is to the advantage of our membership that we perform our mission through modern means. In order to continue assisting our church and our community most effectively we will continue to keep up with the times.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

You are requested to remember in your prayers: Bill Breidenbach's mom and dad, Bob and Mickey Caffrey, Andy Chizmadia, John Clifford, John Joseph Flannery, PGK Alex Galante, Ralph Giandomenico, Michael Guercio, Tom Haggerty, Marilyn Haggerty, Joanne Harraka, Eric Hoffman's mom, Arthur Velma and Bonnie Jenkins, Theresa Johnstone, George Leshanski, Mercedes Machalick, Bill Maughan, Nancy Manento, Jenny Menzalla, Charles and Patricia Middaugh, Al Namer, Peter Norton, John Peterson, PGK Vince Sansone, Noah Smith, Margaret Tichy, Elizabeth Wain, Claire Weite, all the members of the U. S. Armed Forces, as well as any member or unassisted brother who is sick or in distress.

**[www.kofc7141.org](http://www.kofc7141.org)**

Have you visited our web site? It is continually being updated to allow informational services to be provided to you at any time in the comfort of your own home or wherever the internet is available.

Council current Officers and Directors, Charter Members, a Memorial to our Deceased Brothers, as well as a calendar of events is available to you. There are links allowing you to reach Catholic Informational links; as well as, a link to churches and their Mass schedules anywhere in the country. Helps in fulfilling your Mass obligations when traveling or on vacation.

Soon, we will be using our site to promote the K of C International Amateur Golf Tournament to be held at Lake Harmony in June. We are one of the eight host councils for the event.

Bookmark our website to make it easily accessible and check it out periodically for changes and updates. Be sure to click on the calendar to see what is coming up!

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**The Explorer is offering you an opportunity to help support your newsletter and to have a chance to win a pair of tickets to the New York Rangers vs. Philadelphia Flyers hockey game on Thursday evening, March 2, 2006 at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia (included will be two passes to the Victors Club). These seats are in the second level, on the blue line. Really great seats! Great gift if you can't use them yourself! (Incidentally, I like hockey!!!) Chances are \$3 each and the winner will be the ticket with the two digit number that is the same as the last two digits of the Valentine's Evening drawing of the Pennsylvania daily Lottery, February 14th. That is right, only 100 chances will be sold! Contact PGK Tom Whitehead (570-646-8174) to purchase chances.**

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