

THE BLESSING WORD



Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council #5273 Knights of Columbus



Grand Knight's Corner

BRIAN MATTIAS, GRAND KNIGHT

Greetings Brothers!

Lent has begun. A time we often use to make sacrifices...to give things up...or take up new habits. Sometimes the Lenten changes we make stay with us. Many years ago, I gave up sugar for Lent – from candy to cookies & cakes...right down to the sugar in my coffee. Over those six weeks, my taste adjusted so that when Lent was over, I continued drinking coffee without sugar. I did not see that coming! This year, I'm giving up alcohol for the first time. I cannot see this becoming a permanent change as I love beer, scotch, martinis, etc. far too much! I'll surely be celebrating Easter with some of my dad's homemade Limoncello!



With our ongoing Into The Breach series, another Exemplification Ceremony on February 28, our first Knights Night Out in a long time on March 1 and an Awards Banquet on March 11, I'd say Blessing Council is off to a great start this calendar year! Special thanks goes to our Worthy FS Neil Fidler for hosting Into The Breach for us. While there is a small core group of men who have been attending, we can always do better. No one can say that travel time is an obstacle, so please join us!

It's curious how our perception of the passage of time increases as we age - tempus fugit! Our oldest daughter will be graduating from Fr. John V. Doyle School in a few months and we have no idea how she grew so fast! Alana has been accepted at Chesterton Academy – Our Lady of Hope, a new RI Catholic school located in Warwick. It's a huge leap of faith as it is all brand new for everyone involved. However, we've been getting many 'signs from above' that have pointed us in this direction. It is a classical education using the Socratic method of teacher-led discussion and it is rooted firmly in the Catholic faith. Every day begins with all students attending daily Mass. I humbly ask your prayers both for our family and for the Chesterton school community as we embark on a new journey towards Jesus and towards the plan God has for us.

One of my initial goals as Grand Knight was to get more brother knights involved, so once again, here is my recurring request. We are an active Council, but we need manpower to hold our events. They don't just 'poof' into being of their own accord. Even if you can only offer an hour – that means a lesser burden for someone else. If you cannot volunteer, please at least try to attend the events that your brothers have worked to put on. Most of them are family-friendly! Besides the events in the second paragraph, we'll be having our KANDI drives, Italian Knight, Car Show and Funny 4 Funds. Stay tuned for opportunities to jump in and help out!

Vivat Jesus!

Upcoming Events

Into the Breach

Place: Zoom Meeting
Date: Thursdays 1/26-4/27/2023
Time: 7:00 PM

March Officers Meeting

Place: OLC Meeting Room
Date: Wednesday, 3/8/2023
Time: 7:00 PM

Awards and Donation Banquet

Place: SSJP Parish Center
Date: Saturday, 3/11/2023
Time: 7:00 PM

March Membership Meeting

Place: OLC Meeting Room
Date: Monday, 3/13/2023
Time: 7:30 PM

April Officers Meeting

Place: OLC Meeting Room
Date: Wednesday, 4/5/2023
Time: 7:00 PM

April Membership Meeting

Place: OLC Meeting Room
Date: Monday, 4/10/2023
Time: 7:30 PM

MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL
#5273
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
P.O. BOX 1470
COVENTRY, RI 02816

COVENTRYKNIGHTS@VERIZON.NET
HTTP://WWW.COVENTRYKNIGHTS.ORG
MEETING PLACE:
OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA
MEETING ROOM
445 WASHINGTON STREET, COVENTRY



Chaplain's Message

FATHER PAUL LEMOI

No message this month.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI

March 2023 Challenge



"But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

(Gospel for March 5, Mt 17:7)

"Do not be afraid" — we read these words often in Scripture. Here, Jesus speaks to the apostles, awestruck at his Transfiguration. In a similar way, the angel told St. Joseph, "Do not be afraid" to take Mary, who had conceived the Christ Child, as his wife. The knowledge that God is with us should encourage and strengthen us. Sometimes, as with the apostles, we are overwhelmed by the mysteries of faith; at other times the challenges of living our faith in a secular culture seem daunting. Yet Christ continually empowers us as he calls us: "Rise, and do not be afraid."

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, in which we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, I challenge you to watch the documentary St. Joseph: Our Spiritual Father (available for free at kofc.org/stjoseph), reflecting on St. Joseph's courage. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Pilgrim Icon program, which features an icon of St. Joseph.

Questions for Reflection:

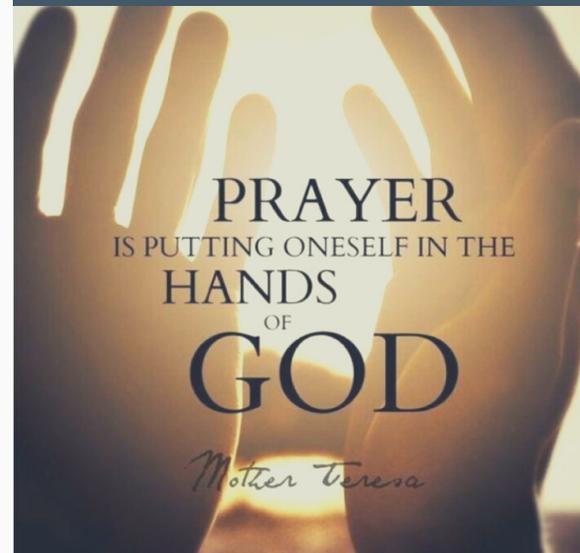
What are you afraid of? Do your fears prevent you from fully following God's will in your life? How can you imitate the courage of St. Joseph?

March - Month of St. Joseph



Prayer Intentions

Our Holy Father Pope Francis
 Our Bishops Tobin, Evans and Henning
 The Priests and Deacons of the parishes we serve
 Transitional Deacon Patrick Ryan
 Seminarian Nicholas Whitaker
 PGK/PFN Herb Knott
 PGK Harold Trafford
 IPGK David Legault
 Brother Anthony Machado
 Brother Alan Ogradnik
 Brother Len Denommee
 Brother Paul Lacroix
 Brother James Kmon
 Brother Matt Parent
 Brother Jim Hall
 Brother Jaroslaw Lewkowski
 Brother Frank Laiter, Jr.
 Brother Chester "Skip" Wendoloski
 Brother Lucien Laporte
 Lucille Ferrer
 Veronica Brouillard
 Nancy Giolitti
 Henry Giolitti
 Mary Deary
 Shirley Laiter
 Sue Rossetti
 Doris Legault
 Diane Burke
 Mary Lawlor
 Michel Brouillard
 Roberta Soucy
 Lori Bullock
 Michelle Legault
 Nancy Blais
 Eric Thatcher
 Joseph White
 Ellen Deck
 Barry Smith
 John Dolan
 Joe Rossi III
 Thomas Senerchia
 All US military personnel active and former
 The Unborn
 All who are suffering from war in Ukraine





March Birthdays

James Dacey (83)	March 3
Michael Greene (67)	March 3
Paul Lacroix (84)	March 6
Stephen Bert (65)	March 11
Richard Legault (65)	March 11
Christopher Dyl (76)	March 15
Leonard Denommee (79)	March 21
Joseph DaSilva (89)	March 22
John Tally (78)	March 30
Michael Byrne (62)	March 30
Jaroslav Lewkowski (58)	March 31



The Patriotic (Fourth) Degree

PAUL LEMEK, FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR,
FATHER WALLACE ASSEMBLY #1055

Current Patriotic Degree Sir Knights are encouraged to join the Assembly Color Corps. Father Wallace Assembly will give \$250 towards a new uniform. Additionally, Blessing Council will contribute \$150. Our Color Corps are the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!



Awards and Donation Banquet

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 @ 7 PM
SS JOHN AND PAUL PARISH CENTER

Our Awards and Donation Banquet will be taking place on Sunday, March 11, 2023, at the Saints John and Paul Parish Center. We will be serving a simple meal of sandwiches and salads prior to presenting our donations to worthy recipients. We will also be presenting our Family of the Year and Knight of the Year awards as well. This event is free of charge, but we will be accepting free will donations. We also plan on holding a 50/50 raffle that will benefit our Knight in Need fund. We encourage all Brother Knights and families to attend, and RSVP date is Tuesday, March 7 - please email Financial Secretary Neil Fidler at Narragansett55@gmail.com or call/text at 401-632-7922 to let him know how many in your party are coming.



Thank You, Bishop Evans!

On November 23 of last year, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, accepted the resignation of Auxiliary Bishop Robert C. Evans. Bishop Evans is a native of Providence in the Federal Hill neighborhood. He was ordained in 1973 and was appointed as Auxiliary Bishop to the Diocese of Providence in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI. Blessing Council wishes to congratulate Bishop Evans for his long and blessed life of ministry to the Catholic faithful and upon the occasion of his retirement. Thank you, Bishop Evans, and may God bless you with the best of health during your retirement.



Welcome New Brother Knights!



During the month of February, we welcomed to new Brother Knights into our council. Brother Lucien Laporte completed the online Exemplification for Charity, Unity and Fraternity on Tuesday, February 14. Brother Lucien is a Saints John and Paul Church parishioner and the leader of the local Men of St. Joseph group. Brother David Boudreau completed the in-person Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity at Our Lady of Czenstochowa Church on Tuesday, February 28. Brother David is also a Saints John and Paul parishioner. Both Brother Lucien and Brother David are now Third Degree Knights in our council.

As we welcome Brother Lucien and Brother David, we also should congratulate ourselves for achieving our membership quota for the 2022-23 Fraternal Year. We now have eight new Brother Knights during this fraternal year, and we achieved this milestone an entire four months before the end of the Fraternal Year! Brothers, we shouldn't rest on our laurels, though. Four months is plenty of time to double our quota which would put us in line for Double Star Council. This is not impossible as we achieved this goal 10 years ago, and we did it in back-to-back Fraternal Years with a higher quota at the time. We can do it again! Ask that Catholic gentleman that you know to join us!

RSVP Program - Raffle Tickets

NEIL FIDLER, FAITH DIRECTOR



I am extremely happy to report that our idea to fund our Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) with the sale of raffle tickets purchased from State Council has been wildly successful! Not only have we attained our goal, but we have enough funds to present donations to our seminarians that will be twice the amount previously given to them. Not only that, but we have enough to donate to the Mother of Life Pregnancy Center which will fulfill our Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) Program obligation and also our Knight in Need fund. A huge thank you to the extremely generous parishioners of our churches - Our Lady of Czenstochowa, St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Saints John and Paul. Also, many thanks to the Brother Knights who helped out selling the tickets not only at our churches, but to their family, friends and acquaintances. Given the poor performance of the stock market and our Vanguard Wellington fund which we rely upon for our donations, this method of providing funds was desperately needed and was a huge success!

Our council will be presenting these donations as well as others to our worthy recipients at our Awards and Donation Banquet on March 11.

Vivat Jesus!

BILL'S PLACE - KNIGHT OUT!



Our "Knight Out" on March 1 was held at Bill's Place in Phenix and a great time was had by all. The food was delicious, the company outstanding, and we also helped celebrate our Worthy Chaplain Father Paul Lemoi's 74th birthday with a beautiful cake provided by Brother Mark Giolitti and his wife Terry. Happy 74th, Father Paul!