

**Knights of Columbus
Msgr. Clement H. Kern Council #8284
555 S. Lilley Rd
Canton, Michigan 48188-1103**



December 2019

Grand Knight Comments

Brother Knights,

As this calendar year comes to a close, let us focus on the holiday in front of us and the real meaning of Christmas. This is truly the time for family, friends and especially for giving thanks for the many blessings and joy we have in our lives. Enjoy this holiday season and pray for those less fortunate, those in most need of our prayers and bring some ideas on how we as a council can help to positively impact those lives in the coming year. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support in the many activities and events the council has engaged in during this first half of our fraternal year. This calendar year we provided over 2,350 hours of service and donated over \$30,000 to a variety of recipients. Your involvement is critical to the many things we do and amount of support we can provide to our parish and community. Remember to ask another brother you haven't seen in a while to get involved and remind him that his participation is valuable to the success of our work. The 2019 activities and events completed, donations made are listed along with the council calendar later in the newsletter.

There were several things the council participated in this month. I would like to thank all of you that participated in and/or supported the following:

- Friday morning Mass (Faith)
- Keeping Christ in Christmas poster contest (Community)
- Consecration to the Holy Family (Family)
- Christmas Dinner (Life)

My wife Cali and I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

Remember to wear your RED shirts to mass and events!

Larry Guastella
Grand Knight
gk8284@mikofc.org

New Members

This month we are excited to welcome our newest member to the Msgr. Kern council. Mike Bittner completed all three degrees on December 8, 2019 at St. Thomas, the Apostle church hosted by the Immaculate Conception council 4513. Mike was part of a group of 30 men achieving full Knighthood by the State Degree team under the traditional format. As our District Deputy shared in his report this month, the degree program is changing as of January 1, 2020 with new members able to reach full Knighthood within a 30-minute ceremony. I will provide more about the new format as details are shared with the council next month. Congratulations and please welcome Mike to the Knights of Columbus and as a new member to the Kern council.



Pictured left: Mike Bittner and Larry Guastella at the major degree ceremony. Sponsor Rick St. Peter was also present for the degree, but unavailable for the photo.

Awards and Recognitions

At the December general meeting we recognized our **Knight of the Month**. Mike Manini stepped up and volunteered to lead a new activity for our council. Each November our parish remembers the parishioners buried from our church in the past year in a liturgical celebration. As a council we worked with the parish staff to host a reception with food and refreshments following the Remembrance mass. Many of the families participated in the reception. Mike and his team set up food and refreshments ready for the families of the passed loved ones at the end of mass, restocked the tables and cleaned up.



Pictured above is Mike Manini and Larry Guastella.

Additionally, our District Deputy Rick St. Peter was awarded the **Michigan Shining Armor** pin for bringing in our newest member Mike Bittner (above). The award is available to any active council member that completes the requirements below in a year. The simple requirements are:

- Be involved in at least three council service programs,
- Attend at least three council business meetings,
- Receive the Formation and Knighthood degrees,
- Meet with the council's insurance representative, and
- Recruit at least one new member.



Awarding the Pin is Grand Knight, Larry Guastella

Congratulations Rick!



New Assignments

As many of you may have read in previous communications, our council has experienced some changes in our officer positions. Last month our Deputy Grand Knight / Program Director / Retention Director resigned for personal reasons. As a leadership team, we decided it best to replace the positions individually to provide additional opportunity for members to take a more active role in the council. Effective in December, Ben Keyserling volunteered and was appointed Program Director in addition to his elected position as Recorder. A special election was held for the Deputy Grand Knight position and Ed Patrick was nominated and accepted the new position. Ed will assume the Retention Director position until a replacement is named. Thanks to both men for stepping forward. Please support them. Congratulations Ben & Ed!

Council Christmas Dinner

This year's Christmas party was a delightful afternoon filled with family, friends, music and great conversation. There was a nice variety of food and plenty for all. Thank you to everyone who brought in appetizers, desserts and side dishes. It was good see everyone enjoying the time with others. A special thanks to our parish Music Director Kevin Ryan for providing us with beautiful Christmas music before and during dinner. My personal thanks to my wife Cali and Mike and Theresa Goodhart for making this dinner possible with all the planning, help and support. Also, I want to express my appreciation for all those that helped clean up. Got us out on time!



Click to see [more pictures](#) from the dinner

Keeping Christ in Christmas!

Often enough, the real meaning of Christmas gets silenced by the drowning noise of the retail world. As Knights, it's important to keep focused on our Christian values and beliefs. There are a couple of ways we stay engaged in this council. One is leading the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest for our parish youth. All the posters have been submitted and we will be judging the entries on December 30th at 9:30 am in the FLC. A second is joining with other councils on a more public level with financial support of a billboard in the metro Detroit area.



Th Holy Family Celebration

The Knights distributed Consecration to the Holy Family prayers cards to parishioners following each mass on the weekend of December 21 & 22. Thanks to all volunteers for staying after mass and helping pass out the prayer cards. Parishioners were asked to consecrate their family to the care of the Holy Family and ask Mary and Joseph to pray for us.

Upcoming Council Birthdays

As a regular feature in our newsletter, we list our council member's birthday for the next month so you can wish your brothers a special "Happy Birthday" if you like! The following are the **January** council birthdays:

Happy Birthday!

Basil U. Opara (1-1), Dennis R. Thinel (1-3), Jeffrey A. Nardecchia (1-6), Bernard S. Schwartz (1-10), Andrew J. St Peter (1-15), Alexander E. Brown (1-16), Timothy R. Magers (1-16), David P. Darkowski (1-17), Bryan D Chemotti (1-23), Robert S. Craighead (1-24), Ronald S. Baj (1-26) Thomas A. Rhein (1-26).

In Memoriam

We also wish to honor our council brothers who have preceded us in death by remembering the date that they went back home to the Lord. These are the bothers we have recognized on our council memorial tower as well.

For the month of **January**, please remember all of our brothers:

Wayne A. Buchanec (1-12-2010)

Robert Sultana (1-18-2006)

Brian K. Metzger (1-27-2019)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Let us pray

Please remember all council brothers and family members sick or in distress in your prayers.

Summary of our council Activities / Events and Donations for 2019

Activities	Donations
Baby Bottle Campaign	AAA Pregnancy Resource Ctr
Baccalaureate Breakfast - High School Grads	Angel's Place
Breakfast with Santa	Boysville/Holy Cross Services
Card / game night	Breakfast with Santa - supplies
Charity Poker	Children's' Leukemia Foundation of MI
Christ in Christmas Poster contest	Coats for Kids
Consecration to the Holy Family	Crossroads Soup Kitchen
Corporate Communion	Elizabeth foundation (Philippines)
Council Christmas Dinner	First Step Shelter (LAOH Chocolate Affair)
Council Golf League	Fisher House - support Veterans
Council Golf Outing	Mercy in Action - parish support
Council Picnic	MI (Tootsie roll) Drive
Family Dinner Night	Michigan Special Olympics
Family Fun Day	Mom Prom
Free Throw contest	Motor City Wheels - wheel chair
Men's retreat	Parish School Supplies (back pack) prog.
Michigan Special Olympic - Canton	Prep Bowls tickets - Youth Group
Milestone Wedding Anniversary event	Quilt Rack for the quilters
Monthly morning mass	Respect for Life
Novena for Life	Senior Clergy Village
On the Rise Bakery	SHMS Tuition Assistance
Pancake Breakfast	Spiritus Santus Academy
Parish Picnic	Sponsor parish baseball team
Parishioners Remembrance Mass Reception	Sponsor Seminarian Matthew Kurt
Pumpkin Painting contest	St. Louis Center
Red Cross Blood Drive phone calls	St. Vincent de Paul Society
Respect for Life Dinner	Support prison ministry
Right to Life training - Mike Spencer	Support Supreme programs
Rosary	Take 10
	Ultra Sound Donation (K of C - state)
	Vista Maria
	Wheelchair ramp

Note: some activities and donations occur multiple times during the year.

2019-2020 Fraternal Year Officers & Program Directors

Larry Guastella	Grand Knight	gk8284@mikofc.org
Fr. Chris	Chaplin	fr.chris@abecket.org
Ed Patrick	Deputy Grand Knight	edward4249@comcast.net
Joe Nader	Chancellor	joesnader2@gmail.com
Ben Keyserling	Recorder	Bkeyserling@gmail.com
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Mike Pisano	Treasurer	mijopi@hotmail.com
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Bill Simmerer	Advocate	wsimmerer@wowway.com
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Jim Allen	Trustee (3rd Yr.)	king57@comcast.net

Mike Goodhart	Membership Director	md8284@mikofc.org
Ben Keyserling	Program Director	pd8284@mikofc.org
Ernie Cesarone	Faith Director	cesaronema@wowway.com
Darius Dzikowski	Family Director	dariuszdzikowski74@gmail.com
Dennis Keller	Community Director	D.M.KELLER@COMCAST.NET
Bill Des Ormeau	Life Director	bdesorm21@gmail.com

Rick St. Peter	District Deputy	dd22@mikofc.org
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Upcoming calendar dates:January

- 3rd - Friday morning mass 9 am
- 9th - Officers meeting 7 pm
- 12th - Pancake Breakfast
- 14th - Diocesan Meeting SJN 5:30 pm
- 15th - Rosary in Chapel 6:45 pm
- 15th - General meeting 7:30 pm
- 18th & 19th - Parish Coat Drive
- 19th - Council Free Throw Contest
- 25th & 26th - Parish Coat Drive
- 31st - Game night

February

- 3rd - District Mtg Detroit 6:30 pm
- 7th - Friday morning mass 9 am
- 8th & 9th - Membership drive after masses
- 9th - Pancake Breakfast
- 13th - Officers meeting 7 pm
- 16th - District Free Throw
- 19th - Rosary in Chapel 6:45 pm
- 19th - General meeting 7:30 pm
- 23rd - Corporate Communion 10 am
- 28th - Game night

Watch your email for more details or changes.

Any questions, email to gk8284@mikofc.org

Council clothing - Need some new council “threads”? Contact [Mike Goodhart](mailto:Mike.Goodhart@mikofc.org) (md8284@mikofc.org) to place your orders or for any questions.

Council website update - Are you checking our council website regularly? If not, you are missing out on the latest news and information from the Knights of Columbus and your council. Find us at www.kofc8284.org . Also check out our **Facebook** page from time to time for updates. And be sure to “Like” our Facebook page and get the updates automatically on your timeline!

www.facebook.com/pages/Knights-of-Columbus-8284-Canton-MI/235628156455332

Note: If you have information, articles or pictures to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Larry Guastella, our Newsletter Editor, at lguastel@gmail.com or gk8284@mikofc.org.