

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

JANUARY 2018

In service to one.



COUNCIL 13977

In service to all.

Next Meeting: Wed. January 10, 2018

RIDES FOR MEETINGS

Do you know of a brother knight that is disabled or cannot drive and is unable to attend the monthly meetings? If you would like to volunteer to help pick up a fellow brother knight for future meetings please contact GK Doug Styka in person, by phone (330-717-4957), or email (djstyka@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



ATTENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

The Program Update meeting which was originally scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018 has been rescheduled for Monday January 15, 2018. The meeting will still take place in Lyons Hall at 6:30 pm. Please be prepared to discuss the upcoming program activities from now to June 30, 2018, when
GRAND KNIGHT: Doug Styka PHONE: (330) 717-4957 EMAIL: djstyka@sbcglobal.net

all program activities have to be completed. All activities must be reported by April 15, 2018. For more information, please email Brother Knight George Zokle at gzokle@yahoo.com or call him at (330) 714-9205.

MASS FOR LIFE

Please plan to attend the Mass for Life as our presence will be turned in as a Culture of Life project. The Mass will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 21st at St. Columba Cathedral and will be followed by a reception including an "Expo" of Respect Life information. A blessing of unborn children and their families will take place during Mass. The Knights of Columbus are firmly committed to honoring life from the moment of conception until death. Please contact Brother Knight Joe Dravecky to let him know if you will be attending the Mass.



ANNOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

On January 25th,
Immaculate Heart
of Mary Parish
will celebrate the
sacrament of the



Anointing of the Sick at a special liturgy at
4:30 p.m. All persons who are suffering
from serious or chronic illnesses are invited
to attend along with their family members.
Immediately following Mass, there will be a
light supper of soup and sandwiches in the
Msgr. Prokop Social Center.

CHILI COOKOFF

The annual parish Chili
Cook Off will be held



on Saturday, January 27th following the 4:30
Mass. Once again, our Council will be
participating along with other organizations
of our parish. Special thanks to Brother
Knight Ken Balzic for volunteering to make
the chili for the event!

KNIGHT of the MONTH

The Knight of the Month article is a great
way for our Council to get to know different
members a little better. If you are interested
and would like to be featured as a Knight of
the Month for a future newsletter, please
feel free to contact Brother Knight Dominic
Mattiussi at drmrocks@yahoo.com or
Brother Knight Rich Mattiussi at
mattiussi52001@yahoo.com (Bios are

optional). This month's Knight of the Month
is our Chaplain as well as a former assistant
pastor of St. Joseph, Father Mel Rusnak.



Father Mel Rusnak was born on September
15, 1943 in Campbell, Ohio. He is the son
of the late Emery and Betty Rusnak and is
the third of four children (Betty Rhoda,
infant eldest sister deceased, living older
sister, Marilyn Blissenbach, and younger
brother, Charles Rusnak). Growing up,
Father Mel attended St. Nicholas School in
Struthers and Cardinal Mooney High School
in Youngstown. His parents were very
supportive of Catholic practices (ex. Family
rosary, weekly Mass, and monthly
confession) and he was trained to be an
altar server in the Latin Rite when he
entered the fourth grade. He says that it
was a very special time for him and his
parents and admits that it was very difficult

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to learn the Latin responses. Fortunately, his teacher was an Ursuline sister, who was very, very patient with him.

Father Mel received both his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Biblical and Religious Studies at Atheneum of Ohio. He then completed his seminary studies at St. Gregory's and Mount St. Mary's of the West Seminary in Cincinnati. While studying to become a priest, his time in formation also included yearly evaluation sessions with Seminary Rector and Staff. During Father Mel's days in the seminary, minor orders were received as signs of progressing—porter, lector, acolyte, and exorcist. Then came the major orders: sub-deacon, deacon (with promise of permanent celibacy) and finally priest. During the process, the ceremony of tonsure (the practice of cutting some of the hair on the scalp) was done to indicate the separation from the state of the Laity and entrance into the state of clergy.

After one year of service in a parish (St. John the Baptist in Canton, Ohio) as a deacon, Father Mel was called to the ministry of priest by Bishop James Malone, on May 23, 1970 at St. Columba Cathedral, in Youngstown. Over the years his assignments have included: Holy Name of Jesus, Youngstown (2 years); St. John the Baptist, Canton (4 years); Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Ashtabula (4 years); St. Joseph, Austintown (1 year); Maryknoll Missions (6 months); Immaculate Conception, Ravenna (4 years); SS. Cyril & Methodius, Warren (5

years); SS. Cyril & Methodius, Youngstown (14 years) and St. Stephen of Hungary, Youngstown (9 of the last 14 years) and Assumption, Geneva (10 years).

Father Mel states that his encouragement to become a priest were the following: "Family life, Catholic schools (especially during his time at both St. Nick's and Cardinal Mooney), and my personal quest for the Mystery of God and His Fantastic Creation!" He also states, "My priestly service has provided me with many wonderful experiences." His experiences have included working in both traditional and national (ethnic) parishes; serving on the Catholic Charities Board; Fair Employment Practices Board in Canton; Ecumenical collaboration in Youngstown, Canton, Warren, Ashtabula, and Geneva; promoting small group communities; and serving on the Presbyterial council for the diocese.

Father Mel's advice to young men thinking about serving God as a priest would be to meet with their pastor or another priest to discuss the interest. Also to talk to God daily about God's Will for the young man. God is most active in purifying the motives, and reasons for becoming a priest. There are other choices one can make to serve God in His Holy Church (Ex. Layman single or married, religious brother or priest, deacon).

Father Mel became a member of the Knights of Columbus in 2005 while serving as a

pastor at Assumption Parish in Geneva. Although a member from the Madison/Geneva council invited him, it was not his first invitation to become a knight. In fact, almost every Parish he served he was invited and he would always give the same excuse: "Thank you, I am saving that opportunity when I become older." Surprisingly when he was appointed to be the pastor of Assumption, he was 61 years old and no longer had an excuse! Father Mel has since progressed through First, Second, and Third Degree, and has been a member of the Fourth Degree since 2012.

Father Mel's hobbies include biking, racquetball, hiking, and golf. He also enjoys music, plays, reading about lives of the saints, new technology, and economy.

THANK YOU

Continued thanks to our dedicated Bingo Volunteers. Your hard work and your service are greatly appreciated!

LOOKING AHEAD

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God–
January 1st

Mass for Life– January 21st

Parish Chili Cook Off–January 27th

Ash Wednesday–February 14th



Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

FAITH CORNER

Let us continue to pray for the canonization of our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney



*IMPORTANT FEAST DAYS-JANUARY
2017*

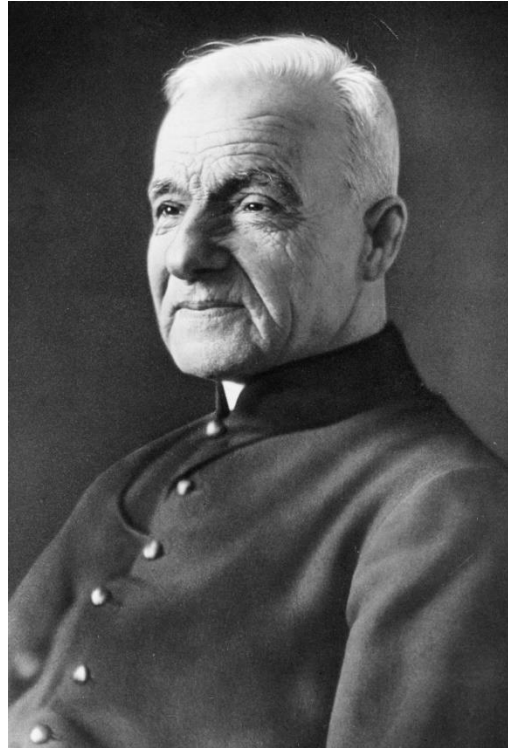
*ST. ELIZABETH ANN SEATON-
JANUARY 4TH.*



ST. JOHN NEUMANN-JANUARY 5TH



ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE-JANUARY 6TH



*ST. HILARY OF POITIERS-JANUARY
13TH*



*BLESSED ODORIC MATTIUSSI
(POSSIBLE DISTANT RELATIVE)-
JANUARY 14TH*



*SS. FABIAN AND SEBASTIAN-
JANUARY 20TH*



*ST. FRANCIS DESALES-JANUARY
24TH*



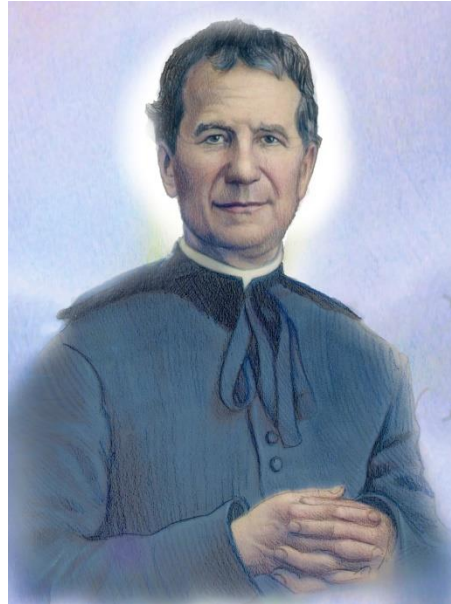
*SS. TIMOTHY AND TITUS-JANUARY
26TH*



ST. ANGELA MERICI-JANUARY 27TH



ST. JOHN BOSCO-JANUARY 31ST



*ST. THOMAS AQUINAS-JANUARY
28TH*



*PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR-
JANUARY 1, 2018*



O sacred and adorable Trinity, hear our **prayers** on behalf of our holy Father the Pope, our Bishops, our clergy, and for all that are in authority over us. Bless, we beseech Thee, during the coming year, the whole **Catholic** Church; convert **heretics** and unbelievers; soften the hearts of sinners so that they may return to Thy friendship; give prosperity to our country and peace among the nations of the world; pour down Thy blessings upon our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and upon our enemies, if we have any; assist the poor and the sick; have pity on the souls of those whom this year has taken from us; and do Thou be merciful to those who during the coming year **will** be summoned before Thy judgment seat. May all our actions be preceded by Thy inspirations and carried on by Thy assistance, so that all our **prayers** and works, having been begun in Thee, may likewise be ended through Thee.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life.

Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood.

Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image, as well as theirs,

made for eternal life.

Dispel their fear of selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give.

We ask this through **Jesus** Christ, Your Son, Our **Lord** Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.



Amen.

***RESPECT LIFE! ALL HUMANS ARE
CREATED IN GOD'S SACRED
IMAGE.***



*LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
OUR LOVED ONES THAT ARE
SUFFERING FROM ILLNESS OR
CURRENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL.*

*POPE FRANCIS MONTHLY PRAYER
INTENTION-JANUARY 2018*



Religious Minorities in Asia: That Christians and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

Christian Persecution



FAITH IN A TIME OF PERSECUTION

**PLEASE DONATE TO HELP OUR
PERSECUTED BROTHERS AND
SISTERS IN CHRIST (LINK):**

**[http://www.kofc.org/en/charities/
christian-relief/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/charities/christian-relief/index.html)**

**Follow up articles (links) about our
Christian brothers and sisters
suffering in the Middle East:**

**[Dolan: Persecution of Christians a
'kitchen table' topic for U.S.
Catholics](#)**

**[Pence, persecuted Middle Eastern
Christians need your platform](#)**

**[www.thetablet.co.uk/news/8191/ec
umenical-us-conference-
highlights-persecution-of-
christians-](http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/8191/ecumenical-us-conference-highlights-persecution-of-christians-)**

**[wfcourier.com/news/local/lebanes
e-priest-talks-of-middle-east-
threats-to-
christianity/article_881c5a49-3661-
5f90-9bf7-b1589d0c6669.html](http://wfcourier.com/news/local/lebanese-priest-talks-of-middle-east-threats-to-christianity/article_881c5a49-3661-5f90-9bf7-b1589d0c6669.html)**

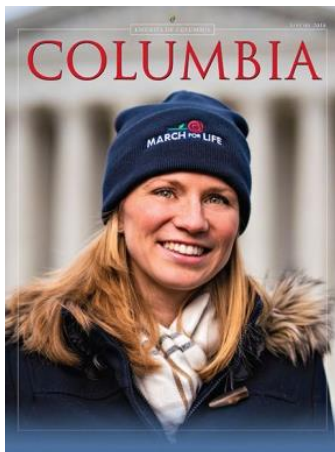
**[As U.S. commitment to persecution
waivers, Russia steps in](#)**

['JESUS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US'](#)

PRAYER SUGESTIONS If anyone has a specific prayer in honor of a Catholic Saint or prayer intention that you would like to be inserted in future newsletters, please feel free to email Brother Knight Dominic Mattiussi at drmrocks@yahoo.com. I would

be happy to receive and post any special prayer requests.

Don't forget to Read:



You may also read Columbia Magazine online or on your tablet or Ipad.

Also feel free to Read:



<http://www.cnewa.org/home.aspx?ID=26&pagetypeID=12&sitecode=HQ>

Pro-life Magazine



<http://www.clmagazine.org/>

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

CHURCH

1. Faith Fiesta-Approved
2. Anointing of the Sick Mass and Dinner-Approved
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

COMMUNITY

1. Patriotic Activity (July 4th Parade)-Approved
2. St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen-Approved
3. Habitat for Humanity-Approved
4. State Cash Bonanza-Approved
- 5.

COUNCIL

1. Newsletter-Approved
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

FAMILY

1. State Matching Funds-Approved
2. October Fest-Approved

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3. Memorial Mass-Pending
4. Keep Christ in Christmas-Pending
- 5.

CULTURE OF LIFE

1. Car Pool-Approved
2. World Marriage or Unborn-Approved
3. Fall/Spring Rosary-Approved
4. Baby Bottles-Pending
5. Pro-life Memorial Donation-Pending

YOUTH

1. Trunk or Treat-Approved
2. All Saints Day Parade-Approved
3. Coats for Kids-Pending
- 4.
- 5.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Knight of the Month Recruitment-Approved
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 14, 2018

March 14, 2018

April 11, 2018

May 9, 2018

OFFICERS

Grand Knight	Doug Styka
Deputy Grand Knight	Ernie Ramhoff III
Chaplain	Rev. Mel Rusnak
Chancellor	Bill Bakos
Recorder	Bob Gugliotti
Treasurer	Paul Rarick
Advocate	Ernie Ramhoff II
Warden	William Potkanowicz
Inside Guard	Ken Balzic
Outside Guard	Rich DiMarino
Trustee for One Year	Rick Larson
Trustee for Two Years	Joe Iwasky
Trustee for Three Years	Dominic Mattiussi
Lecturer	Rich Mattiussi
Financial Secretary	Bob Pesa

Check out our local Catholic Radio Channel:





45th Annual March for Life

January 19, 2018

Washington D.C.

Check out our official Diocesan
Newspaper for the Diocese of
Youngstown:

THE CATHOLIC
Exponent



<https://www.facebook.com/kofccouncil13977-stjosephaustintown>

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

<http://www.kofc.org>

<https://www.kofcohoio.org>

<http://www.doy.org>

<http://www.stjosephaustintown.org>

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