



THE BANNER

Unfurled for God and Country



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**Ash Wednesday
is March 5**

BUSINESS MEETING, Feb 6, 7:30PM ♦ ALL MEETINGS @7:30PM IN PERSON ONLY!

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Business Mtg, Feb 6, Home Mtg (not general meeting), Feb 13; Officers' Mtg, Feb 27.
MEETINGS IN PERSON! ~ Home Mtgs are General Mtgs in March, June, September, December.
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN EMAIL FROM MIKE PINKL REGARDING MEETING REMINDERS.

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From the Desk of the Grand Knight

February 2025

Hard to believe that Christmas and New Years have come and gone already. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

Please remember the victims of the California wildfires in your prayers.

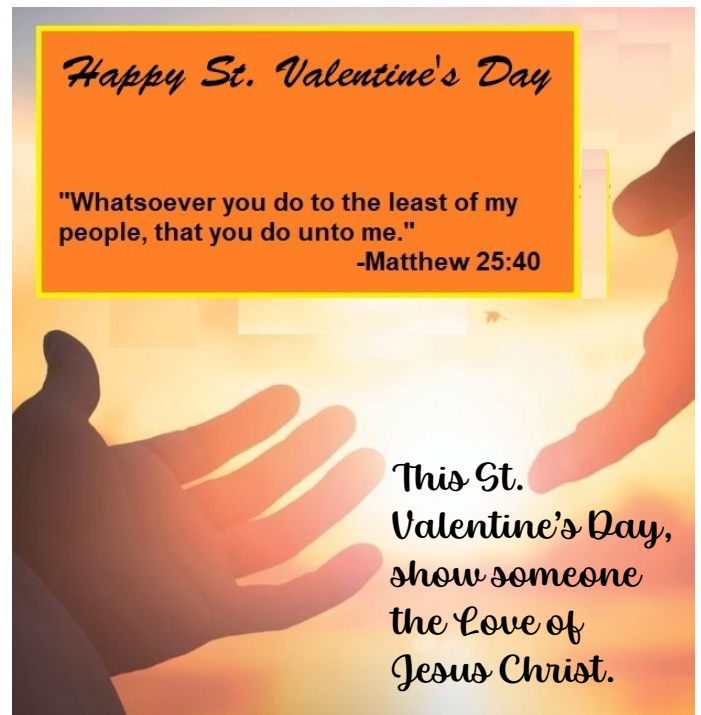
Pope Francis messaged President Trump upon his inauguration today, saying "I invoke upon you, your family, and the beloved American people an abundance of divine blessings" and encouraging Trump to be a promoter of peace.

What an honor to have the Holy Father personally bestow his blessing on the new President. Perhaps we should emulate the Pope and keep the new administration in our prayers.

As noted last month, please keep in mind that our council will no longer have a meal after our monthly Business meetings. The meeting time will revert to 7:30 pm, as with all of our meetings.

Until next month, try to stay warm and please take care when shoveling snow on your property. None of us are getting any younger.

Vivat Jesus!
Mike Pinkl
Grand Knight



The Eucharist: Food for the Journey

The title is the 2025 theme for Malvern Retreats. Our Retreat Director for the weekend of January 18 was Father Simeon Gallagher OFM. He lives in Denver, CO but grew up here in Philly; St. Franny's parish on Green Street in Fairmount. John McAleer, George Warren and I enjoyed an uplifting, inspiring weekend. I hope you can join us next year.



There are two times when filled with emotion, my heart beats faster, breathing falters and tears well up: The Star Spangled Banner and Holy Communion.

Eucharist, a Greek word for Thanksgiving, the consecrated host is the source and summit of our faith. All the sacraments are in the context of the Mass, yet 67% of practicing Catholics do not believe it is the Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Gallagher wanted us to be aware of four different realms.

1. The Holy Spirit.
2. Open to God's Word.
3. Aware of Jesus' presence.
4. The unconditional love of Jesus for us.

We must suffer, so Jesus does it for us.

"Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the **covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt. 26:27-28). Poured out for YOU!

We hear these words so often and we are so familiar with them that their WIERDNESS usually goes right over our heads. Pay attention the next time you are at Mass. A covenant in the Old Testament is sealed by the sprinkling of blood. The parties to the covenant are bonded together as a family and are now bound by blood. Secondly, it was a warning that if one broke the covenant, their blood would be shed just like that of the animals whose blood was being sprinkled on them.

"Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words" (Exodus 24:5-8).

Once we understand that background, we see why Jesus called the wine at the Last Supper his "blood of the covenant." When we receive the Eucharist, we are agreeing to accept all the teachings of the Catholic faith. It is spiritual death to break this New Covenant (Hebrews 10:26-31). The next time at mass do not just mindlessly receive Communion. Be conscious of what you are doing.

The Eucharist is the center of Mass. Jesus is present. He wants to belong to you. He gives himself to you to eat. The gift of faith. He wants you with Him. Trust in Jesus. He suffers for you, so you don't have to suffer.

In your silence, back in your pew, be aware of His presence, look into His eyes and know His unconditional love for you. Absorb that word unconditional. No conditions, just pure love for you.

Most of the world has forgotten Him. Jesus gives Himself to me so I can give Him to you.

My precious Jesus, you feed me with yourself, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Your unconditional love for me is incomprehensible, hard for me to grasp, yet here you are.

"Death could never have been defeated except by the death of the Savior. For unless he had felt dread, human nature could not have felt free from dread. Unless he experienced grief, there could never have been any deliverance from grief. Unless he had been troubled and alarmed, no escape from these feelings could have been found. Every one of the emotions which assault human nature can be found in Christ ... so that they might be thoroughly subdued by the power of the Word dwelling in the flesh, thereby changing the nature of man for the better." --St. Cyril of Alexandria (+444)

Vivat Jesus!
Will Schmitt, PGK, Lecturer



Happy Birthday to all Knights born in February!

Richard L Girkin	Charles P Kuhar, Jr
Patrick Gleason	Anthony T Stamato
Rev. Joseph E Howarth	Rev Joel F Szydlowski
Charles P Kuhar, Sr	Paul J Wuestkamp

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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHER KNIGHTS & LADIES

Also, please pray for an end to war everywhere. Please pray for victims of gun violence and the wildfires. Please pray for government officials, for a commitment to peace.

Please call or email Mike Pinkl with the names of all ill Brother Knights and Ladies.

PA KofC Newsletter: http://www.pakofc.us/newsletter/keystone_knight/index.html

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