



# The Olive Branch

## Our 63<sup>rd</sup> Year



Chartered – November 14, 1954

January 2017

Shooting for a STAR!

### Chaplain's Message.....

Dear Brother Knights,

Happy New Year! Throughout the Christmas season, there were a number of readings that recounted various events in Mary's life that continue to inspire believers. She is the first disciple to follow Jesus and she remains a model of discipleship for all who seek her son. The Church dedicates the first day of the New Year to Mary, recognizing her most important role in salvation history – the Mother of Jesus – thus, the Mother of God. Of the many titles and depictions of Mary, the highest honor is identifying her as the mother of the Savior.

One of those Gospel readings was the description of her visit to Elizabeth her kinswoman who also was expecting her first was born. This event is referred to as "the Visitation". When recently reading from Luke 1:39-45, what struck me was the very human side of Mary. There was Mary, pregnant, and she leaves the comforts of being in her home to visit Elizabeth. It must have been a challenging journey, for we are told that Elizabeth and her husband Zachariah lived in the "hill country", and yet Mary didn't hesitate; she went "in haste". When Mary learned that her older cousin was pregnant, she felt the need to help her. The Gospel continues by telling us that she remained with her cousin for three months. Wow!

There are relatively few stories of Mary recorded in the Gospels. This should not surprise us since the Good News is primarily about Jesus. Yet, we know Mary to be "full of grace". This example of Mary's loving charity speaks volumes! Pregnant herself, she acts "in haste" to go to her older, pregnant cousin; another example of her loving heart.

As we begin this New Year, perhaps we can, like Mary, recognize and embrace the many opportunities we have to act charitable toward others; and I bet you don't have to travel very far. There are people who need help within your family, your neighborhood, our parishes, the places where we work, the schools we attend, amongst members of our Council, maybe a friend. Let us go to them "in haste", like Mary.

Once again, I want to wish you and yours God's choicest blessings as we enter the New Year, a year with great opportunity for all of us. May we together experience the joy of walking with the One who first chose to journey with us, and that is Jesus! I hope that the celebration of the Christmas season has been truly amazing for you. With Jesus, it certainly can be. Again, God's blessings to you and yours! My prayer is that you will make it a Happy New Year – with Jesus!

**In Jesus' Love!**

**Father Paul Zywan**

Chaplain, Council #3907

### Upcoming January Meeting Schedule

Due to the sale of our KofC Council Home on Swinderman Road, our meetings for January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, will be held at Saint Alexis School Cafeteria, with a Rosary: 7:30pm, Meeting (to follow) at 8:00pm. February meetings will be back at Saints John & Paul, Lower level Church Multiple Purpose Room.

### Grand Knight's Message

Brothers

The winter solstice marks the beginning of winter and shortly thereafter we celebrate the Birth of Christ. There is a commercial bent to the season as shoppers scurry about selecting gifts, mailing cards, getting Christmas decorations out of the attic and preparing homes for this festive season. We, as Knights of Columbus, however, know that the real meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ that occurred over 2,000 years ago in the "little town of Bethlehem". By the time this issue of *The Olive Branch* is published, Christmas Day and the year 2016 will be memories with weeks of cold weather in the forecast.

I thank each of you for the many contributions you made to our Council during the past year.

Since the last *Olive Branch* was published, we Knights participated in many significant events. The Color Corps lent its support to the Annual Medallion Ball on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Wyndham Grand in downtown Pittsburgh. The Ball was held under the patronage of His Excellency The Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh. Many of our Council members served in the Color Corps for that event.

On Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, we held the Retired Priests' luncheon at Vincentian Home. There were thirty-one (31) attendees including ten (10) knights and twenty-one (21) residents of Vincentian.

On Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 many of our members attended the Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception at Saint John Neumann Church. Our Council meeting was held immediately following Mass in one of the Church's meeting rooms. On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7:00PM many members of our Council attended the Pittsburgh Chapter Memorial Mass and Dinner at Council #1400 Bellevue PA. The following week on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 we attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Memorial Mass and Dinner at JFK Council #5501 in Russelton PA. Due to the sudden illness of the priest scheduled to celebrate Mass, the Mass was cancelled and only the dinner was held. Two of us attended the Bishop's Project monthly meeting at St. Mary of the Mount Pittsburgh Montessori School on Mount Washington, Pittsburgh hosted by Council #491.

I hope you and your families had a very Merry and Holy Christmas!

**Happy New Year to All!**  
**and Vivat Jesus!**

**William J. McKim**

Grand Knight

### February 2017 Issue of the Olive Branch!

The deadline for the **February 2017** issue of the Olive Branch will be on **January 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please send to:  
**George Franz <george.franzjr@gmail.com>**

## Christmas Seals

In the past several weeks you should have received a packet of Christmas Seals either in the mail or in your parish bulletin. It is not too late to make a contribution to the Bishop's Project. Simply use the envelope supplied with the seals and enclose your check made out to **K of C Bishop's Project** with **Member #3907** on the memo line and envelope. If you misplaced your envelope, please contact any of the Council Officers for a new one. Or, donate online at right (with C3907 & your Parish)... → →

*Steve Seaman*

724-935-2576 – <sgseaman@zoominternet.net>

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## Degree Candidates

Next 1<sup>st</sup>&2<sup>nd</sup> Degrees are being planned for Saint Ferdinand 9AM Saturday morning January 21<sup>st</sup>; and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree is being planned for Saint Ferdinand Saturday morning February 18<sup>th</sup>. The next 4<sup>th</sup> Degree is being planned for Sunday afternoon June 4<sup>th</sup> 2017....

**FYI: Degrees are being Renamed: 1st==Admission (Rosary); 2nd==Formation (Cross); 3rd==Knighthood (Medallion); and 4<sup>th</sup>==Patriotic**

For further information on upcoming Degrees: Please contact: SK Larry Emark at <emarklw@verizon.net> or 412-367-0525; or visit: **PA State Website** at <www.pakofc.us>/ **Membership/ West Degrees.**

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## Fifth Sunday Rosary

Our next "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary" will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Alexis after the 11:00AM Mass.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Chris Kelley*

Phone: 724-799-0249 – Email: <chris081476@gmail.com>

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## March for Life

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life Pilgrimage will occur on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. One of the local churches sponsoring a Bus to Washington DC is **Saints John & Paul**. The cost for the Pilgrimage is \$35.00 for Adults and \$15.00 for Youth/teens, and includes the bus ride, water, donuts, and a sandwich & drink for dinner. Children of any age are welcome to attend if accompanied by a parent. High School students may attend without a Parent (a signed permission slip and medical forms are required). Financial aid is available. The buses will depart on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00am and will load in front of the Cardinal DiNardo Center. Online Registration and Pilgrimage details can be found on the Sts. John & Paul homepage at <www.stsjohnandpaul.org>. Just click on "March for Life 2017" in the lower-left corner of the page. If you have any trip and logistics questions, please call Donna Lopus at 412-389-6738. For registration questions, please contact:

Kirstin at <kcenk@stsjohnandpaul.org> or 724-935-2104 x289

**Saint Alexis** and **Saint Alphonsus** will also be hosting Buses. Check your Parish Bulletin for details..... **SJN** will be joining **SSJP** on their Bus....

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## Wreaths Across America

Thanks to your support we continued the tradition of supporting the Wreaths Across America project to honor our deceased veteran during this past holiday season.

## Priest Luncheon

On December 1<sup>st</sup> ten Knights served lunch to 21 male residents at Vincentian Nursing Home. Pizza and "liquid" refreshments were served by the Knights. A good time was had by all.

The next luncheon will be on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30AM.

Look to see you there

*Morrie Stack*

412-366-2475

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## Happy New Year & Thank You!

As we make the transition into the New Year of 2017, I would like to wish my brother Knights and their families the very best and I look forward to continuing to serve as your Deputy Grand Knight.

In our Council, the position of DGK also carries with it, the added responsibilities of General Program Director and President of the Columbian Knights. I would like to say "THANK YOU" to all of our members that have supported me in these positions since last July and, in particular, to ALL of the various "committee" members and chairmen that have agreed to remain in those positions, to assist both myself and our Grand Knight with their valuable experience.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Bill Romig*

Deputy Grand Knight

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## Pass the Gavel Dinner (Coming Up Quickly)

This year's Pass the Gavel Dinner will be held February 10<sup>th</sup>. See the handout in this month's Olive Branch. **Please get back to Bill Eaton ASAP**, <willroe@consolidated.net> (724-933-0284).

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## St. Patrick's Day Party

Mark Your Calendar for March 11<sup>th</sup>. Our next St. Patrick's Day Party is coming. See the insert in this month's Olive Branch for more details.

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## 3907 WINS Columbian Award

Thanks for all your support during 2016. With your help, both hours, and financial, our Council won the Columbian Award.

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## Football Sweeps Information

If you are interested to know who has won in the football sweeps so far this season, visit the K of C State web site and look under "Programs" or enter the following link in your web browser:  
<<http://www.pakofc.us/programs/council/football/index.html>>

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## Children's Basketball Free Throw Contest

St. Kilian Council #14807 has offered the use of their Gymnasium for the free throw competition On January 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm. This is the same as last year we will do Councils and District again at the same time. For C3907/D100 Signup Contact:

**David Barton** at <dbarton46@yahoo.com> or (724-935-5262)

*Vivat Jesus!*

Rich Seman, DD100



**PLAN FOR THIS TAX DAY  
AND INTO THE FUTURE**

April 15 (tax day) is right around the corner. It has become popular this time of year to encourage the opening of an IRA or similar retirement annuity, or the depositing of additional funds into an existing account, as a tax-savings vehicle. Or perhaps someone has tried to convince you to open an account, touting the rate of interest that money in one of these accounts can earn. Let me join the chorus of folks encouraging you to open or add funds to an annuity, but for a different reason.

Certainly, contributing money to a Knights of Columbus annuity will allow you to save some money on your income tax return. And, our annuities do pay a very competitive interest rate, consistent with our primary goal of absolute safety of principal. Opening or adding to an annuity for these reasons, however, strikes me as taking a short-term view of a product that is designed to provide long-term security. How much security? How does retirement income that you cannot outlive — guaranteed — sound to you?

Here at the Knights of Columbus, you can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300. Consistent and disciplined savings placed into that annuity over time can — properly structured — guarantee you an income at retirement that you cannot outlive. That guarantee — along with the fact that no one has ever lost money left in a Knights of Columbus annuity (remember — absolute safety of principal) — really will provide you with peace of mind.

I am happy to meet with you — at your convenience and in your home — to explain in detail the benefits of opening a Knights of Columbus annuity, along with the benefits of our top-rated life insurance, disability income and long-term care insurance plans. Contact me today.

*Joe*

Joe Latess

Field Agent and Brother Knight  
Phone: 724-776-9263  
Email: <Joseph.Latess@KofC.org>

**Remember Our Seminarians at Christmas**

- Jeffrey M. Craig  
Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City State
- Jacob H. Gruber  
c/o Saint Paul Seminary  
2900 Noblestown Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227
- Gabriel Salibi  
c/o Saint Paul Seminary  
2900 Noblestown Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227
- Joseph M. Farren  
c/o Saint Alexis Parish  
10090 Old Perry Highway  
Wexford, PA 15090-9320

Please continue to support and pray for our Seminarians...

**Remember in your Prayers**

The following individuals were included in our prayers at the two December meetings, plus call-ins; please add them to your prayer list...

**Deceased:** Fr. John M. O'Toole PSC; Dolores Connelly; Sally Abels; Chuck Gernen; Ray Perotte; Edward Dye; Janet Fowler; and Larissa Osby.

**Members:** SK Robert Zoeller; SK Terry Conroy; SK George Ley; Larry Sampietro; Jeff Full; Morrie Stack; and Andy Maul.

**Family & Friends:** Virgil C. Dechant, PSK; John E. Nickolas PSD FSD; Aaron F. "Ron" Cabbage PSD; Russ Reigel, FM FSW; Bill Kelly; Henry Caruso; Bill Kelley; Joan Daquelente; Marian Stack; Chuck Hosick; Mike Lorinc; Gloria Ley; Denise Malchano; Mary Jo LeDonne; Jessica Glancy; Nancy Cummings; Bob Cummings; Terry Cummings; Betty Kolakowski; Catherine Wapenski; David Eisenbraun; Jan Franz; Bob Powers; Ruth Craig; and Jim Bischoff.

To add or delete any names to/from this list, please contact Grand Knight Bill McKim or Financial Secretary Bill Eaton.

**First Friday Overnight Adoration**

Several members of #3907, many along with their wives, continue to spend "An Evening with Our Lord" in the Grotto Chapel of Sts John & Paul Parish. Most are in one-hour shifts from 8:00pm Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month through the night until 8:45am Benediction on Saturday morning. Our next scheduled Adoration is on Friday January 6<sup>th</sup> into Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup> then next month February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact SK Larry Emark at <emarklw@verizon.net> or 412-367-0525 to get your name on the Adoration List. SJ&P also offers Tuesday All-Day Eucharistic Adoration (all year long) following the 7:00am Mass until 7:00pm Benediction.

**Brothers we need YOUR HELP**

To reach out to our members who haven't as yet become involved with the activities of our Council, we are seeking your input on what ideas or activities could improve your social participation. In THIS JANUARY's newsletter you will find a brief survey that we would appreciate that you review, mark-up and return to us via email or USPS. We have developed a few ideas that could be activities we can add throughout the year if the interest is there, but we are also looking for your thoughts on those other things that might get you out to join in. Please send completed surveys to our **Council Mail Box** or email to **George Franz**: <George.franzjr@gmail.com> or photo/text to 724-772-0494

**"Look Ahead"**

Important dates in the near future mark your calendars now, more information to follow:

- January 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 SSJP/SJN, SAIX, SAIP – March for Life
- January 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 St Alexis – Fifth Sunday Rosary
- February 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Pass the Gavel Party
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 Priest Luncheon, Vincentian
- March 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 – St. Patrick's Day Party

**Web Site Links:**

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Our Lady of Olives    | <www.kofc3907.org>              |
| Pittsburgh Chapter    | <www.pittsburghchapterkofc.org> |
| PA State Council      | <www.pakofc.us>                 |
| Supreme Council       | <www.kofc.org>                  |
| Diocese of Pittsburgh | <www.diopitt.org>               |
| TRY (Special Needs)   | <www.tryspecialneeds.org>       |
| Bishop's Project      | <www.bishopsprojectkofc.org>    |



### Council 3907 Bereavement Policy

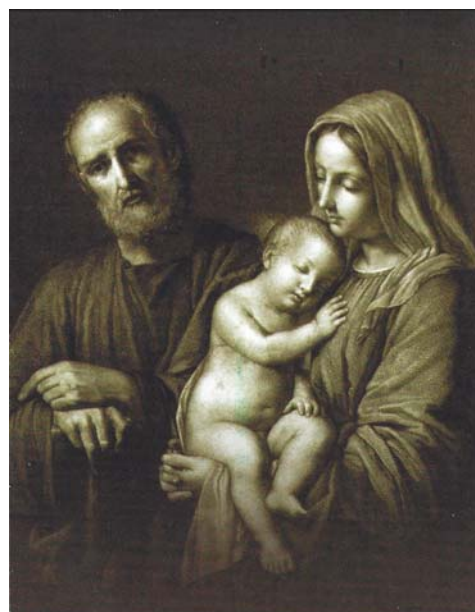
For more than 50 years our council has followed a bereavement policy at the death of a member or a loved one. Occasionally we have to reprint the policy so that there are no misunderstandings. >>>

Upon the passing of a loved one, someone should notify the Grand Knight, Financial Secretary or the Chancellor to advise of what the arrangements will be and if the family would want the bereavement service. The Council 3907 contact then contacts the funeral home to set up the time or other arrangements as desired by the family.

We normally recite the Rosary for the member, his spouse, his children or his parents. We also extend the courtesy to his siblings who are still single and living with the parents.

In the case of it being a member in good standing of #3907 we follow the Rosary with the "Member Wake Service" as prepared by Father Schroeder in 1977 - the light green, pamphlet.

If the deceased member is a 4th Degree knight, the Assembly is notified in the case that the family wants the services of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Color Corps.



#### A FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which you, O Father, eternally show with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain. The cover image of the Holy Family is a drawing by Giovanni Balestrina, based on a painting by Sassoferrato. The original print is housed at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. Used with permission.

### 2016 C.O.A.L. Winners

	Award	Ticket #	Winner	Council
1st Prize	2017 Chevrolet Spark 4 Dr Sedan	1005968	Vince Paccino, Glenmore, PA	13141
2nd Prize	Ireland Vacation 7 Days	0719040	Walter Hansen, Stroudsburg, PA	7141
3rd Prize	National Park Canyon Country	0188536	Andrew Hickman, Brick, NJ	4160
4th Prize	Costa Rica 9 days	0070041	Mary Beth Combola, Ardmore, PA	431
5th Prize	California Coast & Wine Country	0324797	Mindy Stepanik, Sunbury, PA	4281
6th Prize	4pc Kitchen Appliance Package	1019844	William Lang, Eighty Four, PA	13832
7th Prize	Disney World 2 adult/2 children	0643332	George Keenan, Bethlehem, PA	15188
8th Prize	Canyon Country 8 days	0583079	William McVicker, Davidsville, PA	10409
9th Prize	\$3,000.00 Cash prize	0970941	Francis Kennedy, Ashley, PA	12089
10th Prize	Punta Cana Vacation	0198158	Andrew Spacht, Erie, PA	4262
11th Prize	Rivera Maya Vacation	0389408	Ales Arthur Holt, Kingston, PA	3987
12th Prize	\$2,000.00 Cash prize	0405344	Mr. Zulli, Springfield, PA	4500
13th Prize	Las Vegas Trip 4 days with \$300.00	0130166	Dan Dugan, Pittsburgh, PA	2555
14th Prize	\$1,000.00 Cash prize	0965125	Frank Coughlin, Plymouth, PA	11901
15th Prize	60 inch HD Smart TV	0301431	Mount Pleasant Council #3334, Mount Pleasant, PA	3334
16th Prize	64GB Apple iPad Air 2 w/WiFi	1040020	Michell Romano, Verona, PA	4925

### Parish Retreat Schedule

St. Paul's Passionist Retreat Center  
 <www.stpaulofthecrossmonastery.com>  
 <stpaulsretreatcenter-pittsburgh.org>

#### Women's Retreats:

- Jan. 6-8 - St. Alexis Mary Ann Sembrat 412-992-7290  
Patty Quatchak 412-855-6806
- Jan. 13-15 - St. Alphonsus Eileen Minnock 724-776-0876  
George Payne 412-736-0482
- St. John Neumann <not listed> Retreat Center 412-381-7676
- SS John & Paul <not listed> Retreat Center 412-381-7676
- Others: See Fall Retreat Center Newsletter, else Signup above.

#### Men's Retreats:

- Jan. 20-22 - St. Alexis Ed Thomas 724-625-1315  
Eugene Lersch 412-366-1622
- Jan. 20-22 - St. Alphonsus Mark Prybyl 724-776-0876  
George Payne 412-736-0482
- Mar. 10-12 - St. John Neumann Andrew James 412-366-5885  
Paul Crnkovic 412-367-7481
- Mar. 17-19 - St. John & Paul Tony Muhlenkamp 724-934-5139  
Jim Michel 412-980-3377
- Others: See Fall Retreat Center Newsletter, else Signup above.



*Our Lady of Olives*  
 Council No 3907  
 Knights of Columbus  
 P.O. Box 131  
 Wexford, PA 15090-0131

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**OUR 63<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF COLUMBIANISM!**

*January 2017*

Discover a World of Good Things  
 in the Knights of Columbus

Return Service Requested

**Our Lady of Olives Council #3907 <- Council Calendar <- January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – February 11<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6	January 7
<b>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (HD) New Year's Day</b>		Pittsburgh Chapter Penn Allegheny C4242 (Verona) 7:30pm	K of C 3907 Meeting Rosary 7:30pm Meeting 8:00pm St. Alexis Cafeteria	<i>St. John Neumann</i>	First Friday SALx Women Retreats→ Overnight(8pm–9am) Adoration: SJ&P→	First Saturday
<b>January 8</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>January 13</b>	<b>January 14</b>
<i>The Epiphany Of the Lord</i>	<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>				SALp Women Retreat→s	
<b>January 15</b>	<b>January 16</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>January 20</b>	<b>January 21</b>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)</i>		K of C 3907 Meeting Rosary 7:30pm Meeting 8:00pm St. Alexis Cafeteria	February Olive Branch Input Due	Bishop Project meeting, St. Mary of Mont. C491 SALp Men's Retreat→ SALx Men's Retreat→	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree C11838 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree C11838</b>
<b>January 22</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>January 25</b>	<b>January 26</b>	<b>January 27</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>		<i>The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle →</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree 7:30pm Assembly Meeting Holy Sepulcher C10175		<b>March For Life &gt;6AM SSJP/SJN, SALx, SALp</b>	<b>Free Throw Contest St. Kilian School 1-4pm Councils &amp; D100</b>
<b>January 29</b>	<b>January 30</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>February 2</b>	<b>February 3</b>	<b>February 4</b>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> <b>Fifth Sunday Rosary St. Alexis &gt;11am Mass</b>	←Catholic Schools Week→	<b>Deadline for → Recognitions Night Reservations →</b>	K of C 3907 Meeting Rosary 7:30pm Meeting 8:00pm Saints John & Paul	<i>Presentation of the Lord Ground Hog Day</i>	First Friday Overnight(8pm–9am) Adoration: SJ&P→	First Saturday
<b>February 5</b>	<b>February 6</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>February 10</b>	<b>February 11</b>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Boy Scout Sunday</i>		Pittsburgh Chapter Pius XII C4925 (Monroeville) 7:30pm			<b>C3907 Pass the Gavel &amp; Recognitions Night Doors 6pm Dinner 7p</b>	