

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWSLETTER

COUNCIL #7621 - TARPON SPRINGS, FL - 12/2023



Let Us Prepare!

Give a gift of spiritual strengthening to the men in your life!



Catholic Manliness Let's Get Back to It!

**14th Annual
Tampa Bay Men's Conference**
Featuring Bear Woznick and Gus Lloyd



Saturday, February 10, 2024
Higgins Hall at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Tampa

\$60 per person with a special 2 for 1 Father/Son combo ticket
Tickets include lunch and free parking

This Christmas give a gift that brings your men closer to Christ.

For tickets or more information visit: SuncoastCatholicMinistries.com

What's In this Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Keep Christ in Christmas Contest
- Spiritual Reflections
- Grand Knight Note
- District Deputy Note
- Fourth Degree Note
- Winter Raffle is Coming
- Field Agent Message
- Men's **FREE** Health Clinic



Upcoming Events

✓ **Sunday, December 3rd**

Have you RSVP for Christmas Dinner?

Cypress Run Golf Club

Social Hour 5:00 PM - Dinner 6:15 PM

December 10th

\$36 per person



BIG BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 3rd

8:00 to 1:00 PM

Join us after each Mass for a breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes and a beverage.

Adults=\$10, Child=\$6,

Family of four(4)=\$25

✓ **Sunday, December 10th**



✓ **Saturday, December 16th**

Last day to enter **“Keep Christ in Christmas”** Poster Contest



Keep Christ in Christmas



This year there will be 5 age group categories instead of the 3 from previous years.

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade, 3rd & 4th grade, 5th & 6th grade, and 7th & 8th grade.

**Wanted: 11X17 Posters with original design and slogan
(Supplies will be provided)**

Poster paper will be made available in the Faith Formation Office or upon request.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each age category.

Completed posters need to be turned in to Tony St. George or any KoC officer by **December 16, 2023.**

The posters will then be displayed in the Parish Hall for all parishioners to enjoy during the Christmas season. Judging will take place and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in the hall on January 14, 2024.



**Sponsored by Knights of
Columbus Council #7621**

Spiritual Reflections

Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain Council #7621



*Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet Your Christ
with righteous deeds at His coming,
so that, gathered at His right hand,
they may be worthy to possess
the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Collect Advent Sunday I

My dear brothers,

With this prayer we begin the Holy Season of Advent. It seems a particularly beautiful prayer for us as brothers as we begin our annual pilgrimage in preparation for Christ's return in glory, the celebration of His Incarnation in history, and the recognition of His Presence among us here and now in mystery.

As Knights of Columbus, our mission is to "run forth" to meet Christ, eager to grow in faith, to be champions of His truth and harbingers of His joy. As Catholic Knights we know that this requires much more than simply a profession of faith, we must cloth ourselves with the armor "righteous deeds" if we are truly be prepared for His coming! We must be His right hand men, soldiers in His army, ready to do the bidding of our Lord and sovereign King! Only then will we be worthy to possess our eternal reward in His heavenly Kingdom!

This year, Advent is scarce more than three weeks long. What is the Lord calling you to do (or not to do!) to grow ever closer to Him? We should all pray and reflect on His Word every day, participate in the Holy Mass every weekend, go to confession monthly, and help others in need. But what more is He asking of you?

Advent as an opportunity for new beginnings, to build good habits, and to help your family grow in Christ. If you are not praying together as a family, do so! As spiritual head of your family, be their prayer warrior. Come to a daily Mass each week or offer a Holy Hour before the Eucharistic Lord for your family. They need your prayers! The Lord may also be calling you to become more involved in the parish and Council. We should be involved in ministry as much as we can, while we can and not depend on others to carry the load. The strength of our Council and Church is people serving the Lord together, each offering what they can.

Advent is a wonderful time of growth as we prepare for the coming of Christ. I pray it may also be one of great peace and joy for you and your loved ones.

Fr Bill

Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain



Grand Knight's Note

Council #7621

Sir John Donnell



St. Ignatius of Antioch Council 7621
Tarpon Springs, Florida

Christmas is almost here!

As a child I remember how exciting it was to know that Santa Claus would be arriving soon with great gifts I could boast about to my friends and relatives. How precocious can someone be? Well, as a child the importance placed on certain toys and sporting equipment was huge, prestigious and envious; or at least I hopped. What a better way to be noticed, than to have the most popular gifts of the season. Yes, Santa knew whether I was bad or good, and I think he just kept forgiving my self-serving nature; forgiving and awarding me when my failures were evident. But isn't Christmas supposed to be a season of forgiveness? So why not expect what we don't deserve.

When Christ was born, he brought a new covenant of forgiveness to our world, and convinced a group of normal men, his disciples, to preach forgiveness even for repeated sin. So, keep in mind that the forgiveness of our Lord is here and waiting for our prayers of forgiveness, even when we behave like a child.

God Bless,
Sir John Donnell

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



District Deputy Note

District 37

Sir David Creamer



Brother Knights,

Happy New Year!

With Advent here, we are reminded of the true “ reason for the season ”. The celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth is the most important part of our lives because it starts the important steps in Jesus’s life leading to Him giving His life so that we could enjoy eternal life. We exchange presents to make us feel good inside, but His ultimate gift overshadows all that we could possibly do or give. We must try to do all that we can to enhance everyone’s Christmas season while keeping in mind that assisting others is just as important as giving an expensive gift at times. Giving of our time is a great example for others along with an inspiration for all to see that giving can be done in many ways, just so long as the true meaning of the season is coming out. We must try to “ Keep Christ in Christmas “ as much as we can to truly enjoy and benefit from this great time of the year. With Advent being shortened a bit, the fourth week only lasting a day, we must keep focused and do all that we can for others.

May we all have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!

David Creamer

District Deputy 37

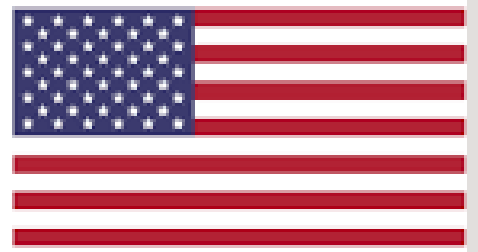




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FOURTH
DEGREE

Patriotic Degree of the Order



ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Our December 11th meeting will be at 6:00 PM



RESERVATION FOR KOC

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday, December 11th-6:00PM

DINNER MENU

PRIME RIB CHICKEN SUPREME

BAKED WHITE FISH

(Includes: Entree', Salad, Bread, Roasted Potatoes, Veggie Medley & Dessert)

\$25/person

RSVP: By Monday, December 4th

NAME: _____ NUMBER OF DINNERS: _____

Need reservation for each person if different Dinner Choice

RSVP: 727-815-8912



Winter Raffle is Coming!

\$20 per ticket

Only 250 tickets will be SOLD!

Have you got your ticket(s) yet?

IF NOT--> Ask a Knight

**1st Place Winner will
receive 25%**

**2nd Place Winner will
receive 15%**

**3rd Place Winner will
receive 10%**

FINAL DRAWING TO BE MARCH 22ND 2024



Merry Christmas



A Message from our Field Agent

As we approach the end of the year and our thoughts turn to the angelic declaration of “Peace on Earth” and “Goodwill to Men!” We remember Pope Francis’ Prayer for Peace where he prays “Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!...Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last...”

In our lives there is much going on: scurrying around buying a Christmas tree, getting it decorated; looking for that perfect gift for our spouse, our kids and maybe grandkids. There are parties and school Christmas shows. Seems like we’re busier than ever.

But let me ask you to slow down for just a few minutes and consider some financial issues that come up at the end of the calendar year.

1. Because we’re so late in the year, you may have met your individual or family deductible on your health insurance plan. Financially this may be the opportune time for some minor procedure to be scheduled; or that visit to a specialist you may have put off. The same is true about dental insurance and sometimes even for vision coverage. Check with your Human Resource office or your health insurance carrier for details.
2. When it comes to health insurance, do you have a Health Savings Account? Do you have to spend the money that’s in there by year end? Some plans have a “use it or lose it” feature. Do you have to make a decision about how much to contribute next year? These are a couple of time sensitive issues. Again, make sure you check with your HR office or health insurance carrier.
3. If you have earned income for the year, will you contribute to a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, or 401k? Are you eligible to contribute more based on the “catch up” provision? Now is the time to start making plans.
4. Speaking of IRAs, have you received your required minimum distribution for this year? If not, the Internal Revenue Service penalty is a hefty 50% of the amount you should have received!

All of these issues come with rules and regulations, and each individual situation is different. I’d be happy to discuss them with you.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us be thankful for all the graces God has showered on us, especially the gift of his Son, our Savior!

Vivat Jesus!
Thomas Spinelli



 **Knights of Columbus**
Asset Advisors®

**Thomas Spinelli**
Advisor
Spinelli Agency
M: 352-895-8586
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-Thomas-Spinelli.html>

Catholic Investing
Let your faith guide your financial decisions
[LEARN MORE >](#)

Plan to Attend this **FREE** Clinic



11th Annual **MEN'S ONLY MORNING**

Saturday, January 27th, 2024 | 8:00am - 11:30am
St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Hall
826 East Orange Street | Tarpon Springs, FL

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Councils #7621, #6476 and #12196

When it comes to your health and wellness, no matter your age or stage of life, we want to be your partner and help you take an active role in living a longer, healthier life. Join us for a free, fun-filled morning of men's health screenings, a panel discussion with our physician experts, and door prizes. The OneBlood Mobile will be on-site. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Free Event!

 727-939-6404

 [AdventHealthNorthPinellas.com](https://www.AdventHealthNorthPinellas.com)

Reservation Required. Space is Limited.

Saturday, January 27th

Registration REQUIRED! - Space is limited



St. Ignatius of Antioch Council 7621
Tarpon Springs, Florida


Advent Health
North Pinellas