



The

# Explorer

## GRAND KNIGHT MESSAGE

Brother Knights,

Let's hope that this new year, 2021, will be much better since the vaccines are out and being distributed. Continue to stay safe and wear your mask.

St Matthews Church in Stroudsburg will be holding March for Life on Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM all are welcome to attend. At the end of the walk Mass will be held in the Church.

Ash Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>. The church will let you know the time that ashes will be distributed.

If anyone that still missing some degrees St. Matthews Council will be doing a First, Second, and Third Degree. All new members can receive all three degrees. Mark the date Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and degree will start 6:30PM. Please let me know if you interested in receiving these degrees. You can contract me at [lnbg9981@aol.com](mailto:lnbg9981@aol.com) or phone me. 1-570-977-1787.

Our Queen of Peace Church added new Mass on Sunday 7:00PM.

Vivat Jesus

Leo GK

## Our Council, Our Church



*The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.*

**Council #7141, Knights of Columbus,** bears the name of Monsignor Connel A. McHugh, who was Pastor of the Pocono Missions.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Church** is the spiritual home for Catholics in the West End



## Coronavirus 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave

Just weeks after parts of the U.S. began reopening, coronavirus infections are on the upswing in several states, including Arizona, Utah, Texas and Florida. Dramatic increases in daily case counts have given rise to some unsettling questions: Is the U.S. at the start of a second wave? Have states reopened too soon? And have the recent widespread demonstrations against racial and political injustice inadvertently added fuel to the fire? The short, unpleasant answer to the first question is that the U.S. has not even gotten through the current first wave of infections. Since peaking at around 40,000 new daily cases in May, daily cases dropped to around 31,00 new cases on average by mid- July and have stayed almost steady over the last month according to the CDC with over more than 1000 people continuing to die day after day nationwide.

Now that the states have opened up, the reproduction number has started to creep back up above 1. According to the CDC's analysis, that is now the case in more than two-thirds of the states. Assuming the reproduction number stays around 1, the U.S. won't likely see the kind of runaway run-up in cases that was so alarming in New York. But it does mean cases and deaths will continue to accrue steadily. To maintain a reproduction number that's, close to 1, or better yet, push it back to just under 1, would take a lot of work.

So why is the U.S. stuck in a coronavirus plateau despite months of widespread social distancing? To explain, it helps to get a bit technical. The key indicator at issue is what's called the "reproduction number" of the coronavirus – or the "R" for short – essentially a proxy for how powerfully infection is spreading in your community. It tells you, for each individual who is infected, how many other people this person will go on to infect. When the reproduction number is above 1, case counts will spiral upward exponentially. When it gets to below 1 and stays there, outbreaks subside.

For example, if the reproduction number is 2, then one person goes on to infect two others. Those two people go on to infect four others. Those four go on to infect eight, then 16 and so on. If you assume, say, a six-day

interval between each new round of infections – in just over a month, that one initial person will have launched a chain that has infected 127 people. As per the CDC's figures, most estimates are that early this past year, when no measures were being taken to keep the coronavirus in check, the reproduction number in the U.S. was above 2.

The University of Washington's Institute for Health Team, pointed to growing evidence that the coronavirus will spread more easily as the weather turns cold. The University's Team analyzed the pattern of the spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. to date. They found that the drop in the reproduction number since early summer can't be entirely explained by obvious contributing factors – such as people's reduced mobility or mask wearing or better testing. And when the team looked for additional variables that could explain the change, it found a strong correlation with warming weather. For example, could it be that coronavirus droplets don't hang in colder air for as long? Is it simply that people spend less time mingling with each other indoors? The effect is not strong enough to make the virus completely disappear over the period when the weather is warmer. But it does mean that the colder weather during the winter months will make the transmission likely to pick up.

The CDC highly recommends that we all wear masks and practice social distancing to help prevent the virus from spreading and what we do outside our household will help prevent the spreading of the virus. It also highly recommends taking a COVID-19 immunization vaccine.

Vivat, Jesus!

Ralph R. Manento, PGK, FDD



## *Finding Light through the Darkness*

If I had a chance to see you, I would ask you how your Christmas went for you. I'd be willing to bet that it didn't quite feel like the Christmas years of the past. I'd like to share some thoughts with you on how Christmas 2020 came together for me.

Christmas morning dawned nicely, Meg had the day off, and we had the luxury of sleeping in a little later than we do on an average workday. We were surprised to look out the bedroom window and find a young deer in the yard trying to make sense of the fact that the creek had overflowed its banks from the night before and the little fellow was trying

to figure how to get across to the other side. Maybe Santa had dropped her sleigh during the night. My wife and I were leisurely coffee privilege of which I so forward to. was shattered



at that moment when the phone rang and work was calling my wife to inform her that her replacement had not shown up for work upon which she dressed in haste and bounded down the stairs and out the driveway in no time flat leaving me with a pot of coffee.

The dream

Now here am I sitting alone at the kitchen table listening to yuletide music all by myself with the cats licking the butter off my fingers. I can't adequately portray my feelings of sadness and loneliness by this development; this is not how I pictured we would spend our pandemic Christmas as husband and wife. I would have to go to Church by myself while I watched all the couples and their children attend in the congregation with family unity being the top attraction of the day. So I said a prayer to my Father in heaven and asked him if I could have the favor of my wife walking in the door so we could be together on this

beautiful day. At 10:45, the door opened and there she was once again together with me, my earnest prayer answered. The helper had overslept and was now covering her post at the nursing home so my girl could once again rejoin me.

Now mind you, this 2020 year has been filled with the darkness of sickness and death and my morning was certainly starting off dark and alone. By the time Mass was over, we walked around at all the simple lights strung out all over the altar and associated areas nearby and at all the tree limbs in the courtyard and instantly brightness had cut through the gloom and brought encouragement and happiness to my Christmas Day.

Advent is a season that we Christians should always embrace. It calls to mind the pre-Christ time when the world lay in darkness with the hopes of someone sent by God to save all humankind. The condition of our world this past year has been nothing short of darkness and gloom. Advent this year had a special meaning for me and I hope for you as well. Do we not head for the warmth of light and flee the dark. Perhaps finishing out 2020 with Advent provided some remedy for those of us who really needed a pick-me-up to get us back on track within our hearts and minds.

I really enjoyed walking around the altar and feeling myself enveloped in the warmth of brightness and the love of God in His house to which we are all invited. As a matter of fact, it is now mid-January and my outdoor Christmas lights are still plugged in at night for passing motorists to see. It is my hope that we can share the light of Jesus Christ to all those around us who need a friend in these hard times.

Paul Carpenito

## *Officers 20-21*

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Picture is of Grand Knight Leo Weir of The Msgr. HctHugh council #7141 Brodheadsville, Pa. presenting coats for the Coats for Kids Program to the Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network. Council #7141 participates in this program every year.



*GK Leo Weir and Community Director John Blundetto of Council #7141 presenting a check for \$1000 to Mr. Jeff Snyder of the Burnley Workshop of the Poconos*

# Good of the Order



**You are requested to remember in your prayers:** Johnathan Altman, Adele Kliene, Ann Jenkins, Anne Whitehead, Ariel Rosa, Barbara Schneider, Bob Iannotto, Brian Howell, Carl Sever, Carol Falotico. Carter Family, Catherine Billman, Chappell Mary, Charles Kenny, Chris Sweeney, Christopher George, Kramer Family, Delta Perez, Denise Bianchi, Dennis Glowacki, Doris Dolan, Ed Connolly, Eilene & John Barittini, Frank Ferrandina, Franklyn Edwards, Fred Wieman, George Leshanski, Isabella Harris, Jack Devenney, Jim Matsko, Joan Koma, Joan Sacco, Joseph Dolan, Joe Burns, Joe Leighardt, John DeRobertis, John Mutusak, John Veit, John (Jack) Rowe, June Weir, Kathy Hess, Kevin Dolan, Laurie Wilson, Margaret Bowers, Margaret & Keith Dillion, Martin Ritchie, Mary Devenney, Maryann McFetridge, Maureen Vagelakos, Mike Adams, Mike D'Antonio, Jim Nuyen, Patricia Tucker, Paul Walushen, Delta Perez, Richard Forte, Richard Tadrzynski, Rita Sweeney, Rose Corello, Susan Walushen, Theresa & Joe Hodnik, Thomas Basso, Tom Chappell, Thom Torode, Vinnie Castello, William Chechel, Scott Mango, Noe Bandeira, Greg Lake, Joey Gurdon, Jennifer Vales, Mason Gwarez, Jose Dantonio, Marzalik Family, Terrance Duffy, Patricia Dolan, Pattie Dolan, Lyon Toppell, Lou Barbarino Family, Pregnancy Resource Center, all the families & victims of 9/11 & all Our Priests.

Our Nation, all the members of the U. S. Armed Forces; all of our law enforcement and fire fighters, and for all children (born and unborn), Our Christian Brothers and Sisters being persecuted in the Middle East, and around the world, as well as any unassisted Brother who is sick or in distress.

## Birthday Boys

Phillip J Sever | Drew D Hoffman | Andrew Connor | William R Bock | Franklin S Smith  
John S Dolan | John S Dolan Jr | Leo M Weir | Jeremy M Myerchin | Albert Guzman  
John E. Proulx | Wayne Greener | John E Barattini | Michael Powers | Robert Bonno

## Wives Birthdays

Deidre Tichy, Bonnie Yost, Diane Kretzmer, Cecilia Weiman

## Anniversaries

Joseph A & Dolores Horn, Robert M. & Agostina Iannotto,  
Francis G. Jr & Zuwena Tatu, Vincent L & Julia Castello  
*Missed in January - José & Joyce Paulinho*

## Knight of the Month

John Dolan

## Family of the Month

Dave Mondillo

# Please support those that support us!!



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