FOURTH DEGREE PATRIOT PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY:
BISHOP ALBERS ASSEMBLY #0496

Bishop Albers Assembly 0496

December2026

Volume #76 Issue #6

4th Degree Newsletter

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Special Points of Interest:

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- Much More...

Editor: **SK Ken Watterson**
aarrdy@sbcglobal.net



Fraternal greetings to my Brother Sir Knights and our Devoted Ladies. In keeping with our devotion to The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of December, we remember the words of Pope Pius IX: *"In the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."*

Hope you all enjoy a wonderful, bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving holiday with your families.

The Annual Honoring Veterans Day and Reflection dinner was held at the Columbus Hall on Saturday, November 14, in partnership with the Lansing Assembly #3334, and the St. Francis
Assembly #2982 in DeWitt. The St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt catered a wonderful dinner. More than a dozen veterans and their spouses attended as our guests, with 78 attendees overall. The Banquet Room was packed. Our Faithful Comptroller Tim Perrone offered a moving presentation about the Vietnam-era song, "Sky Pilot." We also had a video about the VFW National Home, and an inspirational, educational and entertaining keynote address by the Very Reverend Mark J. Rutherford JCD (Doctor of Canon Law), about his six-year experience as Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese of the Military Services of the USA in Washington, DC. He is currently Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Lansing, and Pastor of St. Mary Catheral. MFD Paul Funk also offered closing comments, along with FM Joe Yekulis. Thanks to all who helped make this event a great success. We will invite the District Master and Faithful Navigators from all three Assemblies to join in presenting a check for $1,000 from the net proceeds from this event to the VFW National Home in the near future. We look forward to continued partnerships among all three Assemblies in future events.

There was a Provincial meeting and banquet in Monroe led by Vice-Supreme Master Walter Winkle on Saturday, October 24. Our Faithful Admiral James Martellini, Faithful Captain Bill Ray and I attended the training meetings at the Columbus Hall in Monroe, the Saturday Vigil Mass followed by the installation ceremony for new or continuing District Masters at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, and the banquet program back at Columbus Hall. This was the first Provincial meeting since 2019—before COVID. About 185 Sir Knights and many Ladies attended. They hope to have these every year again going forward, and build attendance back to previous levels. We learned that planning for 4th Degree Exemplifications in 2027 is still underway.

Continue Reading on Page 2

- **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

- SECTION TWO I. THE CREEDS
- CHAPTER THREE I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT
- Article 9 "I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH"

✦ Paragraph 1. THE CHURCH IN GOD'S PLAN





I. NAMES AND IMAGES OF THE CHURCH Symbols of the Church

757 "The Church, further, which is called 'that Jerusalem which is above' and 'our mother', is described as the spotless spouse of the spotless lamb. It is she whom Christ 'loved and for whom he delivered himself up that he might sanctify her.' It is she whom he unites to himself by an unbreakable alliance, and whom he constantly 'nourishes and cherishes.

https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/__P27.HTM

Continued from Page 1

The Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) program is now underway with the Advent season. The Doc Egan Christmas Party, co-hosted by all three Assemblies, is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, from 2-4 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing.

I will meet with Fr. Rutherford from St. Mary Cathedral early in the New Year to begin planning for a Blue Mass to honor emergency first responders from all disciplines (police, fire, EMS, corrections and 9-1-1 dispatch) on an appropriate date at the Cathedral. It didn't work out for us in 2026, but Fr. Mark is enthusiastic about hosting it at the Cathedral in 2027, and being heavily involved in planning and outreach to local agencies. The Lansing Assembly and St. Francis Assembly have expressed strong interest in partnering with us for this event.

Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us.
Vivat Jesus! FN Phil Schertzing

From Our Navigator

Captains Corner

As I sit here on November 21 on the eve of the anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, I have to make one more call out to remember him and what he stood for.

I have always felt melancholy in September when autumn winds blow chilly and cold. But November always marked a time when winter has arrived. The sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Heavy snow. Kennedy's assassination, as well as All Saints day, All Souls day, and some Catholic military hero's.

The obvious for Kennedy is that he gave his life for the country, but he once answered a young boy who asked, "Mr. President, how did you become a war hero? President Kennedy "It was absolutely involuntary. They sank my boat."

Marine Corporal Patrick Gallagher. In Vietnam he wore a Miraculous Medal into battle, when a bullet hit the medal it deflected away from his heart, he gave the glory to Saint Mary. He survived the war and became a priest.

Lieutenant Vincent Capodanno is another celebrated Catholic war hero. Father Mark Rutherford has a great story about his visit to the memorial in Washington D.C.

Sir Knight Bill Ray, Faithful Captain



2025-2026 Newsletter Patron List



Allen Barr
Dennis Becht
Clyde Beckwith
James Bollman
Michael Buzanowski
William Chassé
Anthony Cherniawski
Francis Cherniawski
Eric Clark
Jay Corey
Christopher Costigan
Frank A. DeRose
John Duffy
Clifford Farr
David Freund
Hilary Goerge
Ronald Graber
Dennis Henderson4
Gabriel Ishimwe
Jerry Johnson
Joseph Jong
Michel Kanakuze
Loyd Kintz
Randall LaLonde
David Luedtke
James Martellini
Richard McCloy
Edmund McQuillan
Msgr. Michael Murphy
David Myers
Bernard Pollack
William Ray
Phillip Schertzing
Lawrence Schrauben
SK Deacon Dr. Richard M. Stanford
John Suckow
Paul Teszlewicz
Ken Watterson
Eric Wegener
Chris Wegener





2025/2026 Officers and Appointees

Fr. Michael Skrocki - Faithful Friar
Phil Schertzing – Navigator -- 517. 214.8794
James Martellini - Admiral - 517.256.5007
Bill Ray - Captain - 517 896 2456
Tony Kolp - Scribe - 517.706.9242
Tim Perrone - Comptroller - 517.886.0627
Walter Ozanich - Purser - 517.321.2422
Tony Cherniawski - Pilot - 517.331.5200
Dan Klodt - Inside Sentinel
Ben King - Outside Sentinel
1 Year Trustee: Dave Zerbe
2 Year Trustee: Dave Myers

Appointed Positions

Commander SK Ken Watterson
Historian - vacant -
Membership SK James Martellini

Committee Chairs

Wellness: - SK Ben King -
Admissions: - vacant -

The Honor Guard



provides Honor and Distinction at funerals of Clergy and fallen comrades. They also provide distinctive accent at many Catholic Church functions. You will find them serving as "Guardians of the Colors" by displaying and escorting our National Flag on ceremonial occasions at official Church, Civic, and Knights of Columbus functions.

Sir Knight of the Month

SK James Martellini

"Say the Rosary every day…

Pray, pray a lot and offer sacrifices for sinners..

I Am Our Lady of the Rosary.
Only I will be able
to help you.

...In the end My Immaculate Heart will triumph."



Prayer List

Fr Mike Kaiser
Fr. Michael Skrocki
Fr. Tim McDonald
SK Ben King & Lady Charlene King
SK Richard Maurer
SK Tony Kolp
SK Dan Bazela
SK Michael Buzanowaki
SK David Lennemann
SK Bruce Brennen
SK Joseph Kobus
SK Patrick Garlitz
SK Dan Klout
Michael Williams
Lady Beth Ray, wife of Faithful Captain; SK Bill Ray
Lady Rebecca Kintz
Lady Mandy Borsenik
Lady Colleen LaLonde
Lady Sandy Watterson
Lady Sandy Dandrow
Lady Gayla Schertzing (wife of Phil Schertzing)
JoAnn Trussell
Charles Kahle (Ben Kings Father in Law)
All Seminarians
All Mothers and their unborn children
All Service members and their families
All Government leaders of our Country.
All Souls in the deceased family of Assm 0496
All War Victims..

Bishop Albers Assembly
Remembers:

Our Fallen Brothers

See: https://assembly0496.org/deceased/

Prayer for the Sick

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us.
Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.
Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones.
And for all your love's sake. Amen.





The new Honor Guard Uniform can be ordered at www.kofcuniform.com .

Go to the link to order the Uniform, the price is still $475.00 and we offer a $235.00 incentive to assist you with your purchase, reducing your price to $240.00.

Bring your receipt in to a Meeting after you have received your uniform. You will be reimbursed before you go home. If you order a Sword there is an additional $125.00 incentive available

0496 Honor Guard

When one of your brother Knights approaches you to join the Bishop Albers Assembly Honor Guard, please give the idea some prayerful thought. The rewards of being part of the Honor Guard are many and rich.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Spouse Birthdays

Spouse First Name	Last Name	Wife B-Day
Mary Ellen	Schertzing	12 01
Joyce	Wegener	12 08
Jennifer	Spehar	12 08
Michelle	Lawson	12 08
Angela	Dybas	12 10
Janette	Hamilton	12 11
Kaye	Gonzalez	12 11
Beth	McCloy	12 19
Cindy L.	Killian	12 24
Noelle	Wegener	12 27
Mirla	Moses	12 31

Member Birthdays

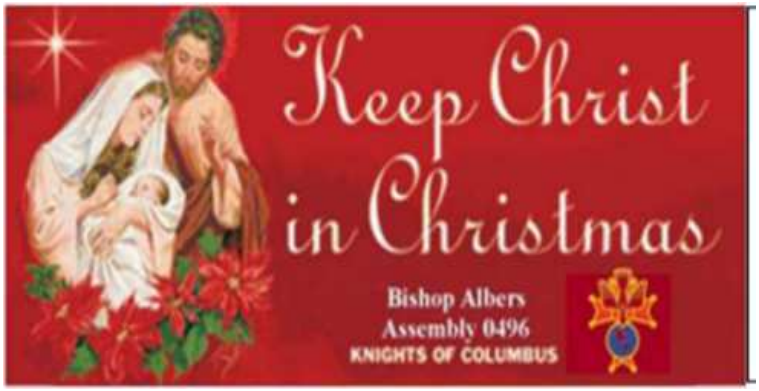
Member First Name	Last Name	Mem B-Day
Daniel Jr	Bazela	12 11
Thomas	Murawski	12 15
Michael J.	McCue	12 19
Fr Michael	O Brien	12 21
Phillip D.	Schertzing	12 23
Dave	Trakul	12 25
Michael	Hull	12 25
John	Hurth	12 29
Ronald	Graber	12 30
David	Garlitz	12 30
Timothy	Perrone	12 31

Anniversaries

Spouse Name	First Name	Last Name	Ann Date
SamiJo	Zachary	Chasse	12 07
Jody	James	Martellini	12 08
Suzanne	Dale	Bassett	12 08
Karen	David	Freund	12 28
Kathleen Ann	Gerald	Ockert	12 29
Debbie	Brian	Peacock	12 31
Michelle	Philip	Mondro	12 31

A Downloadable copy of the Assembly Member Roster is available at:
https://assembly0496.org/members/
— the password is: bishopalbers





Richard Council 788

Would like to remind all that the Hall is available to rent at competitive rates for all of your Social events.

Contact them at **517-321-2209**

Presented B/4 an audience at St Mary's Cathedral Nov 22, 2026

My Brother Knights:

Today marks 63 years since that fateful day in Dallas – November 22, 1963 – on which the life of our Brother Sir Knight John Fitzgerald Kennedy was cut short by an assassin's bullet. We pay tribute to his memory, recalling the first Catholic President, as an example of faith, courage, and leadership.

As a young man growing up in a well-to-do family in Massachusetts and New York, "Jack" Kennedy was an athlete and scholar, loyal and competitive. He was voted by his high school classmates at Choate Academy as "most likely to succeed." His senior thesis at Harvard University, which explained why Britain was not prepared for World War II, was published in 1940 under the title, "Why England Slept."

After college, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and when America entered the war, he left his desk job and applied for sea duty. He was assigned to command a small patrol boat. On a mission off the Solomon Islands in 1943, PT-109 was cut in two by a Japanese destroyer. Despite being injured himself, Kennedy rallied the survivors to swim for shore, towing one wounded man for hours. For his heroism and leadership, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, and the Purple Heart.

Jack's older brother Joe was supposed to be the politician in the family, along the lines of their grandfathers on both sides. But Joe had been killed in combat, leaving Jack as the favorite son. He was elected as U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts in 1946, and later as Senator in 1952.

During his recovery from back surgery, he wrote another book, "Profiles in Courage," for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography. He married Jacqueline Bouvier in 1953. They had four children, two of whom died at or shortly after birth.

In 1960, Kennedy ran for President, which was considered a long shot because of his Catholic faith, recalling that Al Smith was soundly defeated in 1928. He was also youthful and relatively inexperienced in international affairs, but ultimately became the youngest man ever to be elected U.S. President, defeating the sitting Vice-President Richard Nixon. The first televised presidential debates likely helped show the nation the stark contrast between the candidates.

In his 1961 inaugural address, Kennedy promised to lead America to a New Frontier, announcing that the torch had been passed to a new generation, who would ask not what their country could do for them, but what they could do for their country.

President Kennedy inherited some big problems, including Cuba's alliance with the Soviet Union, the raising of the Berlin Wall, Russia's dominance in space, and a situation in a far-off land called Viet Nam. But he rose to the challenges.

Despite the disastrous failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, he averted nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis. Americans were launched into space, and he promised to send a man safely to the moon and back before the end of the decade. In a speech at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, he founded the Peace Corps, to send young Americans not to fight foreign enemies, but to win friends in foreign lands.

President Kennedy lost his young life on November 22, 1963, shot to death while riding in a motorcade in downtown Dallas, with his wife beside him. He was 46 years old. His 1000-day presidency, romanticized as "Camelot," came to an abrupt end. The nation was devastated. The alleged assassin was himself gunned down while under police guard -- a bewildering turn of events -- leaving numerous questions unanswered to this day.

President Kennedy's state funeral in Washington, D.C., was a solemn affair, with full military honors. His young son, John F. Kennedy, Jr., saluted the casket as the funeral cortege passed by. JFK was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, where an eternal flame on his grave burns in his honor.

We do well to remember John F. Kennedy, today and every day, and wonder what might have been had he not been taken from us so soon. But we will never know. As the traditional Irish folk song says, "Johnny, we hardly knew ye."

Thank you, my Brother Knights. **PGK Tim Perrone, Lecturer**



Doc Egan Children's Christmas Party



Age appropriate up to 10 yrs old.

Fr. MAC Hall, St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Saturday, Dec 12th, 2-4 pm

955 Alton Road, East Lansing





Enjoy the reading of a Christian Christmas story, games, snacks, gifts (giving & receiving), a visit with Santa, Nativity Scene, & a Christmas tree.









- Children are asked to bring a nonperishable food item which will be donated to a local charity.
- Everyone will have an opportunity to sign Christmas cards for veterans in a VA facility.
- Each child will complete a craft project that can be donated to a local nursing home.



Co - Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

Bishop Albers Assm 0496, Lansing Assm 3334, St Francis Assm and Richard Council 788 • Lansing, Michigan







Knights of Columbus - Richard Council 788
Presents Their

Annual Dinner & Christmas Auction

Friday – November 27, 2026







Dinner 6:00 pm
Live Auction – 7:00 pm

Dinner will be provided – Please bring an item to Auction

Items to auction may be a craft – bake goods – adult spirits store bought items – gift baskets - etc



Columbus Hall - 5300 N. Grand River, Lansing, Michigan 48906



LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Burger Nights

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

Starting September 8th

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

ONLY $9.00 !!!!!



"Open to the Public"



PRICE INCLUDES:

Choice of a 1/3 lb. Hamburger – Cheeseburger – Olive Burger
French Fries
Made To Order Dine In or Take Out
Your Choice Condiments Include:
Ketchup, Mustard, Pickle, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo, Onion

Columbus Hall
5300 N. Grand River Ave. - Lansing, MI. 48906

Bishop Albers Assembly # 0496
Knights of Columbus
5300 N. Grand River
Lansing, MI 48906

http://www.assembly0496.org

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This Newsletter is published to our Website at **www.assembly0496.org** by the 1st week of the Month. Please contact SK Ken Watterson at **aarrdy@sbcglobal.net** if you have any problems.

Our next scheduled Meeting night:

Columbus Hall

— Tuesday December 15th —
7:00 pm

Light Meal 6:00 pm
Rosary 6:45 pm
Meeting 7:00 pm

— If you know a Brother Knight who is NOT getting this Newsletter or does NOT have access to email —
Contact: Ken Watterson @ 517.881.0812 or Dave Myers @ 517.281.1092.