



# THE BLESSING WORD

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
MONSIGNOR PETER BLESSING COUNCIL #5273



FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2



**MSGR PETER E. BLESSING**  
L.L.D., D.D., V.G.  
RI State Chaplain 1913-1957  
Our Council's Namesake

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

PLACE: SSJP PARISH CENTER  
DATE: MONDAY, 2/8/2016  
TIME: 7:30PM

### FEBRUARY SQUIRES MEETING

PLACE: SSJP PARISH CENTER  
DATE: FRIDAY, 2/12/2016  
TIME: 7:00PM

### URI BASKETBALL GAME

PLACE: RYAN CENTER, KINGSTON  
DATE: SATURDAY, 2/20/2016  
TIME: 7:00PM

### 3<sup>RD</sup> DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

PLACE: SSJP PARISH CENTER  
DATE: TUESDAY, 2/23/2016  
TIME: 7:00PM

### MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

PLACE: SSJP PARISH CENTER  
DATE: MONDAY, 3/7/2016  
TIME: 7:30PM

### MARCH SQUIRES MEETING

PLACE: SSJP PARISH CENTER  
DATE: FRIDAY, 3/11/2016  
TIME: 7:00PM

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER FUNDRAISER

PLACE: SSJP PARISH CENTER  
DATE: SUNDAY, 3/13/2016  
TIME: COCKTAILS 2PM, DINNER 2:30PM



## Grand Knight's Corner

My Brothers All,

I pray that you and your families are well. The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. Lent is the time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During Lent and this Year of Mercy, remember our principle of Charity and devote ourselves to corporal and spiritual works of mercy to help others.

The planning for the annual St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Dinner is underway. The dinner is on Sunday, March 13 in the SSJP Parish Center. The proceeds for this event are donated to Mother of Life Center.

Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council will host a Third Degree Exemplification on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 in the SSJP Parish Center. This will be an opportunity for our Second Degree Brother Knights to become full Knights in our Honorable Order.

Here are some of the upcoming Statewide events:

The 40 Days for Life 2016 Lenten Campaign will be from Wednesday, February 10 until Sunday, March 20. On Sunday, March 6 there will be a Providence Bruins Hockey Night. The 2016 Annual Day of Recollection will be on Saturday, March 12 at St. Augustine Church in Providence. It would be great if we could attend some of these events as a council. You can go to the K of C State website at [kofcri.org](http://kofcri.org) to get more information about these events.

We need to work on recruitment in order to achieve Star Council again this year. Remember "One Member, per Council, per Month".

God Bless and Vivat Jesus!

Frank D. Laiter, III  
Grand Knight  
[fdlaiter3@gmail.com](mailto:fdlaiter3@gmail.com)

MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL #5273 K OF C  
P.O. Box 1470  
COVENTRY, RI 02816  
[coventryknights@verizon.net](mailto:coventryknights@verizon.net)  
<http://www.coventryknights.org>  
Meeting Place: SS John and Paul Parish Center



**Supreme Knight**

Carl A. Anderson

**RI State Deputy**

Peter Lentini

**District Deputy (RI Dist. 5)**

John Pizzo

**Insurance Agent**

Stephen Del Deo

**Msgr. Peter E. Blessing  
Council Officers:****Chaplain**

Rev. Jacek Ploch

**Grand Knight**

Frank Laiter III

**Financial Secretary**

Neil Fidler

**Deputy Grand Knight**

Edgar Brouillard

**Chancellor**

Angel Ferrer, Jr.

**Recorder**

Paul Lemek

**Treasurer**

Mark Giolitti

**Advocate**

Patrick Hurley

**Warden**

Tom Rossi

**Inside Guard**

James Hall

**Outside Guard**

Stephen Kukulka

**One Year Trustee**

Earl Mahar

**Two Year Trustee**

John Pizzo

**Three Year Trustee**

Herbert Knott

**Fr. Leo Ancil Circle Officers:****Father Prior**

Rev. Paul Lemoi

**Chief Squire**

Michael Porter

**Deputy Chief Squire**

Caleb Delehant

**Notary Squire**

David Tardiff

**Bursar Squire**

Brennen Connor

**Marshal Squire**

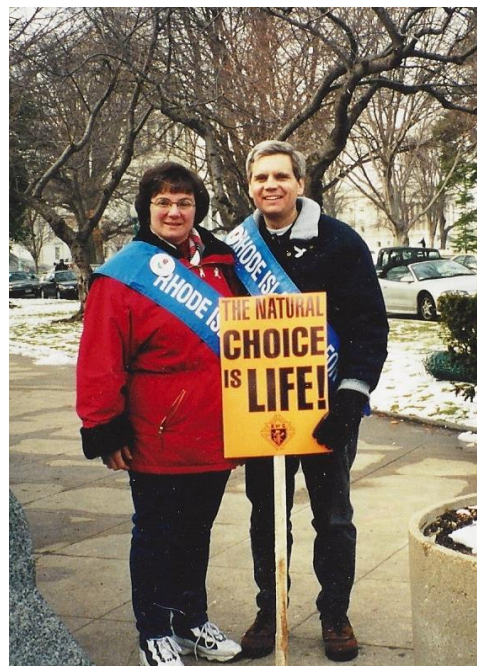
Gabriel Delehant

**Sentry Squire**

William Connor

**Chaplain's Report****Nothing to report.****SSJP Membership Drive**

The membership committee is targeting April for a membership drive at SS John and Paul for the weekend of April 2-3 pending Father Grenon's permission. Brother Knights will be asked to pass out membership pamphlets after each Mass that weekend. The council will follow up the drive with an Open House on the evening of Tuesday, April 5, in the SSJP Parish Center where a membership and fraternal benefits presentation will be made as well as refreshments served. The following Sunday, April 9, after the 11:30AM Mass, the Degree Team will hold a combined 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Degree ceremony in the Parish Center. It is hoped that this drive will bring in a good amount of candidates to join Our Order. Also, subsequent membership drives will be planned at St. Vincent de Paul and Our Lady of Good Counsel. For any questions concerning this upcoming membership drive please contact our Worthy Chancellor and Membership Director, Angel Ferrer, at [chefangel1950@yahoo.com](mailto:chefangel1950@yahoo.com) or call 401-385-3186.

**Remember When**

It's January 1998, and here's PGK Richard J. Denningham, Jr., and his wife Susan at the March for Life in Washington. This particular event marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision that made the sin of abortion legal in the United States. Thankfully through the efforts of the Knights of Columbus and other Pro-Life organizations, abortions have decreased drastically since 1998. However, the sin of abortion still remains legal, and we must all do what we can with protests, write-in campaigns to our legislators and most of all **PRAYER** to end abortion once and for all.

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" – Psalms 133:1*



**Stephen Del Deo – Insurance Field Agent****Financial Secretary Note**

Brothers, if you are paying your dues through auto pay, please make sure that you have changed the payee address to 72 Columbia Ave., Coventry, RI 02816. Recently, there have been payments of dues that have gone out to the address of former Financial Secretaries of this council resulting in notices going out to those Brothers who believe they have already paid their dues. By ensuring that the correct mailing address is on your auto pay, you will be assured that payment will be credited in a timely manner and that there will be no delays in receiving your brand new membership card.

**Brothers Jim and Steve in NYC**

Recently, Brothers Jim Hall and Steve Kukulka joined parishioners from SS John and Paul for the annual bus trip to New York City during the Christmas season. They took in all the sights of Manhattan including the Museum of Natural History, Central Park, Times Square (pictured above) and the Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center. The statue behind them in the photo is of Father Francis P. Duffy who was the Catholic Chaplain of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during World War I. Fr. Duffy's statue stands in Duffy Square which occupies the northern half of Times Square.

**Who Does It? – Brother Knights Skills List**

Skill	Brother Knight	Phone	Email/Address
Construction/Roof Repair	Brian Smith	401-826-1725	BCS Contruction, 23 Holmes Rd., Coventry
Blueberry Farm	John Macomber	401-397-5079	macomersblueberryfarm.shutterfly.com
Certified Tutoring	Edgar Brouillard	401-354-9298	edbrou@gmail.com
Auto Repair	John Starziano	401-821-9887	Star Service Center, 53 Arnold Rd., Coventry
Plumbing/Electrical/Applicances	Tom Rossi	401-243-3767	tomr421@cox.net
Real Estate Referral Agent	Pat Hurley	401-339-5789	realephurley@verizon.net
Writing Instruments	Herb Knott	401-316-7230	knotth1@gmail.com
Computer Repair	Mike Colvin	401-641-6881	mikegcolvin@gmail.com
Delilah's Deli	Paul Bellavance	401-385-3483	780 Victory Hwy #10, West Greenwich

If you have a particular skill and would like to be included on this list, please contact FS Neil Fidler at [Narragansett55@yahoo.com](mailto:Narragansett55@yahoo.com) to be added.

*“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.” – 1 Corinthians 13:1*



## ROUND TABLE NEWS

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH

**Pastor: Rev. Jacek Ploch**

**Round Table Chairman: DGK Edgar Brouillard**

GK Frank Laiter III and FS Neil Fidler recently met with our Worthy Chaplain Fr. Jacek Ploch and presented him with a check for \$760 representing 19 months' payment (April 2014-October 2015) for use of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall. Fr. Jacek also expressed his desire to step down as Chaplain at the end of the 2015-16 Columbian Year. The Worthy GK and FS thanked Father for all he has done for the council.

### ST. JOHN AND PAUL PARISH

**Pastor: Very Rev. Paul Grenon**

**Round Table Chairman: PGK Richard Belanger**

Brother Dick met with Fr. Paul Grenon recently, and Father suggested that the Fr. Leo Anctil Circle should attempt some recruiting in the form of flyers to hand out to the students. Every week, the students take home a folder with various information and could include Squires information to take home. Father also suggested talking with Fr. Stowe about getting Squires information to the Altar Servers. Lastly, Father has granted the council permission to conduct the membership drive after each of the Masses on the weekend of April 2 and 3, however plans to do a combined 1st/2nd Degree on Sunday, April 10, should be rescheduled as a separate event has been scheduled for that afternoon.

### OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

**Pastor: Rev. Paul Lemoi**

**Round Table Chairman: Michael Greene**

Brother Michael met with Fr. Paul Lemoi recently, and Father mentioned that painting on the rectory will begin in the Spring. OLGC will be putting our December donation towards fixing the garage door and the back door of the rectory. Father has also granted permission to install a Knights of Columbus bulletin board in the rear of the church for the Knights to post news items and recruitment information. Father Paul has also accepted the council's offer to become Chaplain starting the beginning of the 2016-17 Columbian Year.

## BLESSING COUNCIL DEGREE TEAM

Did you know that our council boasts one of the few degree teams in the Rhode Island jurisdiction that is certified to perform both first and second degree exemplifications? In fact, our council has been performing those degrees for quite a while now. Led by Degree Team Leader Pat Hurley, our degree team is composed of the following members:

### FIRST DEGREE CEREMONY:

- Grand Knight: FDD/PGK/PFN Pat Hurley
- Deputy Grand Knight: DD/PGK John Pizzo
- Chancellor: FDD/PGK/PFN Alan Giroux
- Financial Secretary: FDD/PGK/FS Neil Fidler
- Warden: PGK Richard Belanger
- Inside Guard: Stephen Kukulka
- Outside Guard: James Hall

### SECOND DEGREE CEREMONY:

- District Deputy: DD/PGK John Pizzo
- Grand Knight: FDD/PGK/PFN Pat Hurley
- Chancellor: FDD/PGK/PFN Alan Giroux
- Financial Secretary: FDD/PGK/FS Neil Fidler
- Warden: PGK Richard Belanger
- Inside Guard: Stephen Kukulka
- Outside Guard: James Hall

## THIRD DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

Our council will be hosting a Third Degree Exemplification at the SSJP Parish Center on Tuesday, February 23, starting at 7:30PM. Candidates will arrive by 7PM. The State Degree Team, led by State Warden and Degrees/Ceremonials Chairman David Bebyn, will conduct the ceremony. Letters have been sent out to all Blessing Council Second Degree members urging them to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain full Knighthood with the ceremony being held at our own meeting place. If you are a Second Degree member and wish to obtain your Third Degree, please contact Grand Knight Frank Laiter III at 401-451-0689 or email him at [fdlaiter3@gmail.com](mailto:fdlaiter3@gmail.com) to let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!

*"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." – 1 John 4:18*



# Squires News



## Saint of the Month: St. Blaise



We know more about the devotion to St. Blaise by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labor in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor, and for decades many United States Catholics have sought the annual St. Blaise blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. (English wool combers, who used similar iron combs, took Blaise as their patron. They could easily appreciate the agony the saint underwent.) Finally, he was beheaded.

"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Blessing of St. Blaise).

## URI Basketball Game



VS.



**When: Saturday, February 20, 2015 7PM**

**Where: Ryan Center, URI Campus, Kingston**

The Fr. Leo Ancil Circle, pending a vote during the January meeting, will be attending a basketball game between the University of Rhode Island Rams and the University of Duquesne Dukes on Saturday, February 20, starting at 7PM. All family and friends are invited as well as Knights from the Blessing Council. If there are 15 or more people who are going, the group rate of \$10 per ticket will apply. Squires are asked to have a head count ready to go for the January meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Circle will be meeting at the Hopkins Hill Park and Ride at 4:30PM to drive down to Twisted Pizza in Exeter for dinner prior to the game. RSVP for this event will be February 12. Please call Chief Counselor Neil Fidler at 401-632-7922 for more information about this event.

## Domestic Church Initiative

During the State Deputies meeting in November the Supreme Knight announced the new Domestic Church Initiative. With this initiative we are looking to move closer to the parish, with that we are urging all councils who are looking to start new squire circles to speak with the Priest of your parish to see how the children can be incorporated within the youth ministry. There hasn't been any official notification to go out as of yet, as we are seeking ways to assist with this movement. If you would like you can view the Supreme Knight's speak on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). As we gather more information on how the Columbian Squires will be effected by this move a formal notice will go out. At this time, we are asking that those circles who are already established to continue the works they are and if provide assistance to the parish as normal, we are still instituting circles at this time. – Quianna Richardson, Youth Activities Program Coordinator, Supreme Council

*"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." – 1 John 4:18*



MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL #5273 K OF C  
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THEIR 4TH ANNUAL

# St. Patrick's Day Dinner Fundraiser



SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016

COCKTAILS 2:00PM, DINNER 2:30PM

SS JOHN AND PAUL PARISH CENTER

341 SOUTH MAIN ST., COVENTRY

MUSIC BY  
COMMON  
THREAD

## Buffet-Style Menu:

Corned Beef  
Steamed Cabbage  
Potatoes  
Whole Baby Beets & Onions  
Roasted Chicken  
Baked Stuffed Scrod

Cheese and Crackers  
Rolls  
Salad Bar  
Coffee  
Dessert  
Cash Bar (Beer & Wine)

50/50  
RAFFLE

DOOR  
PRIZES

\$20.00 PER PERSON

PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO THE MOTHER OF LIFE CENTER



## *Knights of Columbus*

Charity • Unity • Fraternity • Patriotism

For tickets, please contact Richard Belanger at 401-821-1405

Please RSVP by March 7, 2016

Please make checks out to: Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council #5273 K of C



## Free Throw Championship, January 31, 2016



After a three-year hiatus, our council held a Free Throw Championship at the Father John V. Doyle School Gymnasium. Although it was a light turnout, the contestants and the members of the youth committee had fun just the same. The contestants were John Pizzo, Jr. and Conor Randall (10-year old boys), David Brouillard (11-year old boys) and Ada and Isabella Pizzo (12-year old girls). Each contestant attempted 15 free throws. The winners were Conor, David and Isabella, and they will go on to compete in the state championship to be held at Bishop Hendricken High School in March. Congratulations to each contestant and especially the winners. Also, thanks to the members of the youth committee – FS Neil Fidler, DD John Pizzo, GK Frank Laiter, DGK Edgar Brouillard, Advocate Pat Hurley and Tony Favata. Thanks also to Brother Tony's grandson Brett Rexter and his friend Ryan Robillard for helping out as rebounders. Special thanks to Fr. John V. Doyle and especially Athletic Director Mark Foley for allowing us the use of the gym for the competition. Mr. Foley is actually considering becoming a Brother Knight!