

# KNIGHT'S COMPASS

*Direction for Life in Faith*



December 2020

Solomon Juneau Council 2770

Vol 1 Issue 5

## Christ's Compass—Preparing for Christ's Birth

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We continue our Advent preparations for the birth of Christ. The current circumstances of the pandemic provide us with a wonderful opportunity! "What!?" you say. With the continuing restrictions on interacting with others, each of us can take time for more prayer in preparation for Christmas.

In my Bulletin note of November 15th I mentioned that so many things seem uncertain, that perhaps we should get back to the basics of our faith and that we ask God to walk the corridors of our hearts.

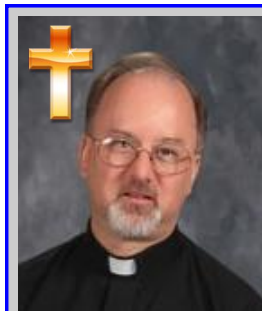
Many are suffering because of the normal challenges of our life, to say nothing of those difficulties being exasperated by the pandemic. We might feel weak in that suffering. St. Paul gives us a perspective on our weakness that comes in suffering. In 2 Corinthians chapter 12 he says this:

"I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong." At first glance we may see this as a contradiction. However upon closer inspection the truth of the paradox becomes apparent, that being that we must put our trust in God that "this too will pass." In that trust we overcome our weaknesses with hope.

Two weeks ago I noted in the bulletin that Jesus is our source of hope. That hope will lie in a manger in just a couple of weeks. Therefore let us pray prayers of hope that will overcome our suffering, fear and weakness; as our salvation will be found in a baby at Christmas.

*Fr. John*

Pastor & Council Chaplain



*Fr John Potaczek,  
Council Chaplain*

The next Knights meeting is  
Tuesday December 15th;  
Officers & directors meet at  
6:30pm, Business  
meeting 7pm Reardon Hall

1st 2 pages of Newsletter are in the  
parish bulletin; the entire newsletter  
will be on Parish Knights web site

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NEXT ISSUE: January 2020

We just had the anniversary of the founding of the  
Solomon Juneau Knights of Columbus Council.  
On December 6th we celebrated our 84th anniversary.



## The Council Compass

*Steve Hesprich, Grand Knight*

There is much going on in the world of the Knights of Columbus. As I reviewed what topics would be covered in this issue, I started with 20 potential articles! That would probably have made this an 8-page newsletter. Instead, I'll summarize some points and leave it for council emails and our monthly council meeting to sort out the varied topics.

More changes are coming in the Knights. I just received communication the first week of December that our meeting structure will be changing so as to streamline and modernize. Having reviewed those changes, it should not have a major impact on our council meeting. We'll discuss those changes at the December 15 meeting.

Noted on page 1 of this issue, our council turned 84 years old on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day. The council was just 5 years old the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into World War II.

The council had what we hope will become an annual Memorial Mass for the deceased members of our council. During Mass we acknowledged those who passed away, by name, since 2010. Each name was followed by the simple word "absent" to acknowledge they are no longer with us. Next year the Memorial Mass will be on Tuesday November 2nd, at the 5:30pm Mass, also All Souls Day. We would like to more actively engage the widows of deceased brothers in our activities and make sure they know they are invited to attend next year's Memorial Mass. We will probably again look at those who have passed away in the previous decade. If we know a widow or family members will be attending that Memorial Mass we will also memorialize those names at the Mass. If you know of a widow of a deceased Knight please let me know so I can reach out to them by including them in our newsletter and in other ways as well.

On November 10th, our Knights council sponsored "How to Protect Your Family and Your Financial Future". We had our first Virtual and live meeting and it was conducted well. Thanks to our field agent Greg Helgerson for his help and that of the parish for hosting the event. Attorney Eric Johnson of our parish Finance Council talked about a number of legal considerations in providing financial protection for the family.

Take some time to look at the new web page we have on the parish website. A convenient link can be found at the bottom of this page.

Blessed Christmas to all!

### Steve Hesprich

Grand Knight Solomon Juneau Council 2770  
cell/text: 608-400-2638 / Home: 608-350-0337

[Steve@Hesprich.com](mailto:Steve@Hesprich.com)



*Steve Hesprich*

## Family Compass— Fr. John Potaczek Family

*By Jon Field, Family Director*

The Solomon Juneau Knights of Columbus Council's November 2020 family of the month award is given to our valued Knights advisor and leader of our parish family, Father John Potaczek. Father John exemplifies the core Catholic family values of prayer, servitude, generosity and selflessness that guides St Patrick's everyday.



Father John grew up in the Chippewa Falls area graduating from McDonell High School and UW Eau Claire. He taught in South Korea, entered the seminary and was ordained a priest in 1999. He has served in parishes in La Crosse, Stevens Point, Bloomer and now Mauston. In his 3.5 years in Mauston where the parish, St Patrick, also has a grade school, Father has dealt with hiring 3 school principals and 1 global pandemic, while also dealing with his regular daily duties at the parish and school. The principal resigned just as the 2020-2021 school year was to start. Fr. John acted as interim principal until a temporary part-time principal was hired late October. That principal, working remotely lasted 3 weeks before having a severe case of COVID and resigning. Fr. John thus continues to act as the Principal. Through it all, Father John has led St Pats with patience, endurance and thoughtfulness, listening to others and making the best decisions he can for the spiritual well being for each and every one of his family of parishioners.

Fr. John is the council Chaplain attending most council meetings. He strongly supports the Knights of Columbus Council. He is a former Wisconsin State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

No amount of words can begin to capture St Pat's gratitude for his tireless efforts in "fathering" our parish.

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## No-Bake Pancake Breakfast

*Howard Boppert, Community Director*

Last month the Knights sponsored a "No-Bake" pancake breakfast to benefit a future activity for the 8th grade class. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, a net of \$625 was received, the most in recent memory for any of the four classes for which we conduct the pancake breakfast. For that breakfast we handed out instant pancake packages after each Mass.

For our December 19/20 "No-Bake" breakfast the proceeds will benefit the 7th grade class who along with Knights will be handing out bananas and oranges in exchange for your donation to help provide an activity for the class. Please be generous in helping our 7th graders.

**Our council now has a web page on the parish web site:**

<https://stpatricksmauston.com/parish/knights-of-columbus/>



## Message of Christmas

By Greg Helgerson, Field Agent

Preparing for Christmas day, means doing everything right and making everyone happy, but this stress causes us to feel frazzled and drained. There is the perception that time is flying by and we just can't get everything done in time. Although it seems hard to achieve this joy, we believe it is our responsibility and we can make it happen.

*Is all this truly necessary if we want to have a successful Christmas Day? Yes and no.*

*Yes, because all these traditions help us get into the Christmas spirit of sharing good times and giving to those we love and care for.*

And no, because we have, to some extent forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. Our focus is to make everyone happy, when everyone should already be happy because we are celebrating the birth of Christ, our Savior. We should enjoy the beautiful season and feel the joy that God wants us to feel.

Even with the stress of the season, above all else, **we seek peace, contentment and joy.**

Over two thousand years ago, a young woman named Mary said yes to the angel when asked if she would bear a child who would save us. She had the opportunity to say no but she believed in God's plan for His people and accepted the preparations for our salvation.



Mary and Joseph had a difficult time in preparing for the birth of Jesus. They had to move to another town for the census; and had no place to give birth except with God's creatures (which were probably surprised by the uninvited guests); and immediately after Jesus was born, they had to flee to Egypt because Herod sought to destroy their child.

**Now that is a difficult Christmas!** In spite of these hard obstacles, Mary had faith in the Lord, that he would lead her on the correct path.

During this Christmas season, take time to contemplate what this Holy Day means for you. Focus more on the laughter and cheer when sitting around the table Christmas Eve, when your children or grandchildren are not only happy to be with you but also thankful for what you have done for them. Take a moment to think about and pray for those who have passed. Sing a few carols or find them online and listen to the words.

When in church for the various Masses, with your brothers and sisters in the Lord, remember to be thankful that we are free to worship. Thank God for loving us and for the greatest gift ever, in the history of all humanity – His Son, Jesus Christ.

God has indeed favored us! May this Christmas bring you peace, joy and the ability to glorify Him who bestows everything upon us. Remember, we are not alone to do everything by ourselves, especially our salvation. Wishing all our members and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Prosperous New Year.

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

## Compass Minutes

By Tom Jodarski, Council Recorder

This column will be a monthly informal recording of Minutes of council meeting decisions/votes. The November Meeting minutes begin this reporting so members are aware in particular of council decisions made at meetings.

Minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

GK Steve Hesprich read a letter from General Agent Tim Nowak praising Greg Helgerson as the agent of the month for the state of Wisconsin for his excellent work even during this time of Covid.



December 2, 2020 will be a virtual retirement income seminar by well know speaker Tom Hegna entitled "Don't Worry, Retire Happy." Members are encouraged to register and attend the virtual seminar with their wives if married. The seminar is 45 minutes with 15 minutes for questions. Tom gives a very provocative and different perspective on the subject of reliable retirement income. The council will get credit toward one of the Insurance requirements of Star Council if several members attend.

Father John reported on the parish silent auction. One of the things the parish had to do was register and pay an annual subscription to the web service that provided tools for the silent auction. Since all bidders had to provide a credit card, once the deadline came, credit cards of the winners could immediately be assessed and it made no work for the parish to collect monies. Since this service has been paid for a year's subscription, it could be used by the parish, possibly some of the affiliated groups, such as the Knights of Columbus.

Father John told us about an ecumenical service being hosted by St. Patrick on Wednesday November 25th. All parish members are invited to come. It begins at 7pm. Father asked if the Knights could provide ushers for the event. Steve Hesprich volunteered to be one. We need one other member to step forward.

Father read from the "Knights to Christ" book today's entry on Fraternity which focused on God's love for you.

Treasurer Jim Kolba reported we grossed \$673 from the "no-bake" pancake breakfast. Minus expenses, we had a net profit of \$625 for the 8th grade class.

Our liability insurance is \$315 for a year. A motion was made and seconded, and approved to pay that bill. The balance of the general fund is \$728 and the charity balance is \$2127.

Jim Kolba reported that the Bank of Mauston will match our \$400 donation to the food bank and probably other organizations and individuals up to whatever the bank budget is for helping the food pantry.

The Free Throw contest is in question because of COVID. We will wait to hear more about guidelines.

The St. Patrick school has a part time interim principal, Randall Stanke.

November 2, 2021, All Souls Day, will be the next Council Memorial Mass for deceased members of the council.

Dick and Matt Schwab indicated the Game Feed is still in planning in the fact gathering stage, a bit on hold till we learn more about how the Hunters' Night event dealt with the circumstances of COVID. It is likely it will be pushed out to February or March.

Tickets were distributed by Deputy Grand Knight Bill Powers on behalf of his dad Steven for the State Charity Raffle. For all other members, the tickets will be mailed.

The next council meeting is Dec. 15th, 6:30pm for the officers and directors, and 7pm for the business meeting.

For the good of the Order, prayers for Dennis Kolba and Joyce (Steve Hesprich mother-in-law). Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.



## Are you a Patriot?

By James Ten Pas—Eastern District Master and Dan Hull—Western District Master

We are sharing with you information regarding the next opportunity for 3rd degree members to join the 4th degree of our Order, the Patriotic Degree.

On Saturday, January 16th, 2021, there will be a combined virtual exemplification of the 4th degree, spanning the entire State!

WHEN: Saturday, January 16th, 2021  
TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

The Honorees for this Exemplification will be Immediate Past State Deputy Jack Wrbanich of the Eastern District and Past State Deputy Wenzel Felber Jr. of the Western District.



All Assemblies in the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin are invited to participate in this Exemplification.

It is recommended that small groups of fourth degree members and candidates gather in the parish hall & project the video conference on a large screen or TV.

At the conclusion of the exemplification, the Faithful Navigator of each new Fourth Degree member will be mailed the social baldric, Fourth degree lapel pin, and a new member certificate.

We are in very challenging times, but we all need to do our part to continue to move forward. Only through the efforts of each assembly in the District, can we grow our membership and make this Exemplification a great success. Let us set a record for Sir Knights joining our ranks and help a brother Knight complete the process.

### "NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE FOURTH DEGREE!"

#### Candidate Eligibility

A candidate for the Fourth Degree must be at least 18 years old, a third-degree member in good standing with his council and a practical Catholic

in union with the Holy See. A current signed Third-Degree Membership Card will be verified by the Faithful Navigator.

#### Deadlines

Candidate reservation, form 4 and registration fees must be received no later, January 11, 2021. **Form 4s are available from Grand Knight Steve Hesprich and should be returned to him. Once a Form 4 and check are received, details of the Virtual meeting link will be provided. Or go to this link to register online. Do let Steve know you have registered so he can get you a Form 4 to fill out:**

<http://uknight.org/Event.asp?ID=324050&CNO=0>

#### Costs

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "Western District: Dan Hull - Master"  
Candidates: \$50.00; Priests: \$30.00  
Sir Knight Observers: FREE



## By-Law Changes to be Reviewed

By Steve Hesprich, Grand Knight

We did not have the needed quorum at our November meeting to vote on the bylaws. We have formed a small committee to examine the changes consisting of the GK (Steve Hesprich), Treasurer (Jim Kolba), FS (Randy Boehm), and former FS (Harry Buttner). We hope to discuss the bylaws at the December 15th Council meeting with recommendations of this committee and to vote upon the new bylaws at the January 19th council meeting.

## Agent of the Month

By Tim Nowak, General Agent



I would like to recognize Greg Helgerson. Greg is the November **Agent of the Month** for the State and our Agency. Greg has done and will continue to do great things in service of our members and family. Greg was recognized among his peers for his performance. As many of you know the timing of this year and learning to meet virtually and going to meetings virtually has made this accomplishment even more

impressive. As the General Agent, I heartily acknowledge Greg's commitment and care for the councils he represents including the Solomon Juneau Council 2770.

Blessings upon all the families of the Knights at Council 2770 in the season of Christ's birth.

Tim J. Nowak, FICF  
General Agent  
429 S. Commercial Street  
Neenah, WI 54956  
Office: 1-920-462-4100  
Mobile: 1-308-289-1404  
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## Knight's Compass

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Questions and requests for copies may be directed to [Steve@Hesprich.com](mailto:Steve@Hesprich.com) / cell-Text: 608-400-2638.  
Anyone can receive the monthly council newsletter electronically by contacting Steve.