



Navigator's Log



**Potomac Assembly # 2204
Comprised of Knights of Columbus Councils
459 Fitzgerald
5998 Mount Vernon, and
11170 Fort Belvoir**

**Includes The Basilica of Saint Mary, Saint Joseph's, Saint Louis,
Good Shepherd, and Fort Belvoir Catholic Parishes**

December 2023



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, November 18, 2023, left to right: Color Corps. Commander Ed Stance, Maurice Chau, Larry Clark, and FN Joe Graf on page 6. Pictures by the Graf family.

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Potomac Assembly Directory

Navigator

SK PGK FN Joe Graf, jggraf@outlook.com, 703 473-0372

Trustee 1 Year

SK PGK John Dougherty, john.dougherty@cox.net,
571 228-9567

Friar

Father Gregory Thompson, fr.thompson@saintlouisparish.org
703 768-4421

Trustee 2 Year

SK PGK PFN Larry Clark, hlclark63@gmail.com,
202 494-4761

Captain

SK PGK PFN Mark Marchione, marchionemark@gmail.com,
707 364-6006

Trustee 3 Year

SK PGK PFN Richard Dunbar, richdunbar1947@gmail.com,
571 216-6012

Admiral

SK PGK PFN Clifford Conway, cliff@vhsign.com, 202 438-6280

Comptroller

SK FDD 2PGK Kevin Palgutt, kevin.palgutt@gmail.com, 703 590-2197

Pilot

SK FDD PGK William Beach, wbeachkofc459@gmail.com, 571 527-7772

Scribe

SK PGK Rob Reynolds, therobreynolds@gmail.com, 703 626-6379

Purser

SK DD 2PGK PFN Fred Beata, fred2pgk@gmail.com, 571 249-0955

Inner Sentinel

SK PGK Maurice Chau, mauricekofc40@gmail.com, 703 220-6185

Outer Sentinel

SK Keenan Pallone, keenan.pallone.kofc@gmail.com,

Fourth Degree Website

assembly2204.org

SK PGK Steve Teslik, steslik@e2steve.com

Color Corps Commander

SK PGK PFN Ed Stance, stanceed@aol.com, 703 313-8136

Navigator's Log Editor, SK PGK Maurice Chau, mauricekofc40@gmail.com, 703 220-6185,

Navigator's Log Staff: SK Carl Eifert

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2023

SATURDAY	2	PATRIOTIC ROSARY AT 11:00 AM AT 5998 AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM
SATURDAY	9	ARMY/NAVY FOOTBALL GAME IN THE MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL LOUNGE 3PM
TUESDAY	12	OFFICERS MEETING AT 7:00 PM ON ZOOM
SATURDAY	16	CHRISTMAS WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 AM AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
SATURDAY	16	CHRISTMAS PARTY JOINTLY WITH 5998 6PM
MONDAY	18	NO BUSINESS MEETING FOR DECEMBER

JANUARY 2024

SATURDAY	6	PATRIOTIC ROSARY AT 11:00 AM AT 5998 AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM
SUNDAY	14	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
TUESDAY	16	OFFICERS MEETING AT 7:00 PM ON ZOOM
FRIDAY	19	NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
SATURDAY	20	WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY—WREATHS OUT
MONDAY	22	RENEWAL OF OBLIGATIONS, 7PM (TENTATIVE)
MONDAY	22	PATRIOTIC ROSARY 7:00PM, BUSINESS MEETING, 7:30 PM IN-PERSON & ZOOM AT 5998

FEBRUARY 2024

SATURDAY	3	PATRIOTIC ROSARY AT 11:00 AM AT 5998 AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM
MONDAY	19	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARADE HONOR GUARD AND SIR KNIGHTS, ALEXANDRIA CITY 11 AM
TUESDAY	20	OFFICERS MEETING AT 7:00 PM ON ZOOM
MONDAY	26	PATRIOTIC ROSARY 7:00PM, BUSINESS MEETING, 7:30 PM IN-PERSON & ZOOM AT 5998

Please keep our Faithful Comptroller SK Kevin Palgutt (703) 590-2197 updated on your status; Kevin.palgutt@gmail.com. Send e-mail to inform of any changes to your phone number, email and mailing address so that the Assembly may keep you informed of our activities, to inform you of SKs and their families that need your prayers, and to let you know of any last minute changes to our planned schedule of events.

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Faithful Navigator's Comments—Joe Graf

Worthy Sir Knights,

Tempus Fugit and indeed it does. It seems as though we were just ushering in the New Year and 2023 only yesterday. Here we are approaching Advent. While Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration and of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas, it is also a season of reflection.

As I write this article, I'm reflecting on the many activities we supported this year and most notably in the past month. While the Fourth Degree has a focus on the Knights of Columbus' fourth principle of Patriotism, we never leave behind the other three principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Never was that more evident than in November when we supported as Sir Knights a Patriotic Rosary and US Flag Retirement Ceremony, a Cigar Night Social, a Wreath Laying and Placement of Flags on graves at Alexandria National Cemetery, a Quarterly Knights in Unity Mass at St Louis Church, Color Corps support of Mt Vernon Council's Memorial Mass and a Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. You can find pictures from most of these events on our Assembly website (www.Assembly2204.org) and I encourage you to do so.

With all of that going on, Memento Mori ... the most important of the events we supported and emblematic of the four KofC principles was the support we provided to our departed Brother Sir Knight Robert Huff and his family. There are no pictures on our website but that doesn't mean this was less important than any other thing we did in November. In fact, there is no more important duty we can provide than this and our Assembly capably stood up to the task by providing an Honor Guard at both the Visitation and Funeral, as well as, pallbearers at the funeral on an extremely busy Veterans Day Weekend (6 events over 5 days). As I've stated before, our Sir Knights that have passed and their families should always receive our support during their time of sorrow and need. A testament to our support of the four principles of charity (personal time, energy and commitment), unity (all three of our Councils were fully represented in the Honor Guard and as pallbearers), fraternity (sharing a common desire to support and being there for our departed Brother) and patriotism (SK Bob was an Army Veteran who was proud of his service to our country). Thank you so very much to our Color Corps that supported the family's request for an Honor Guard and to the Sir Knights that served as pallbearers.

Looking forward, we continue to have activities that support all four KofC principles. A few items to highlight for your planning this month ...

- Patriotic Rosary on December 2 at 11:00 am
- Army/Navy Football Viewing Social on December 9 at 3:00 pm (GO NAVY!!!!)
- Wreaths Across America – Wreaths in at Arlington National Cemetery on December 16
- Christmas Social on December 16

As always, a good resource for information is our website (www.Assembly2204.org), which captures the variety of activities that we have participated in the past and latest info on upcoming events.

May you and your families have a happy and joyous Advent Season and Christmas with all the very best to come in 2024!

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally and Patriotically, Joe Graf
Faithful Navigator, Potomac Assembly 2204

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Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, November 18, 2023



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Patriotic Rosary and Flag Retirement Ceremony, November 4, 2023 at Basilica Saint Mary



Veterans Day Wreath Laying November 11, 2023 at Alexandria National Cemetery



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Unity Mass at Saint Louis 10:30am Mass and Pancake Breakfast, November 12, 2023



5998 Memorial Mass & Dinner, November 18, 2023



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Prayer List

Please remember the following Sir Knights and their relatives in your prayers. If you know of a Brother Sir Knight or relative to be placed on the Prayer List, please notify either the FN or the NAVLOG editor. Thank you.

SK Jim Clark	For the soul of Patricia Saikowski and prayers for SK John Saikowski
Antonio Bennet	For the soul of Fred Zuniga
SK PGK PFN Ray Duff and Renee	For the soul of Robert Huff
SK Freddie Flowers	
SK PGK Reyes Guerra	
SK Fritz Scheuren	
Father Rich Carr	
SK Carl Eifert	
SK Paul Kayanan	
SK Albertus Van den Bogaard	
SK Leo and Tanti McCormick	
Hannah Michals	
Andy Rogers' dad	
Bishop Emeritus Paul Loverde	
SK Jim McCracken	
For the soul of Amada Siervo De Vera, mother-in-law of SK Fred Beata	
Debra Dougherty	
Ben Marchione and Polly Marchione (Mark's father and mother)	
Marilyn Kempton, Grandmother to Rob Reynolds	
SK Ryan Moy's father and SK Ryan Moy	
Pam Clark	
Kim Murray	
Katie Rogers	
Jim and Donna MaKissick	
Michael Gallagher	

Prayer for the Sick

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless our brother Knights and their relatives who are sick. Give them the strength in body, courage in spirit and patience in pain.

Let them recover their health, so that, restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise your name, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

**Happy
Birthday!**

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Birthdays for December 2023

Anthony P. Nichols	December 2
Luis E. Garcia-Baco	December 10
Dwight L. Greenlund	December 12
Frank N. Del Piano	December 13
John J. Karpovich	December 15
Peter-Anthony Pappas	December 15
Patrick A. Pearson	December 15
Francis M. de Rosa	December 16
Anthony J. Johnson	December 17
Andrew B. Rogers	December 23
Michael J. Hahn	December 24
Henry W. Tye	December 24
Thomas S. Carney	December 25
David J. Kammen	December 27
Edward A. Dillenschneider	December 29
Carl A. Eifert	December 30
Rafael K. Genuino	December 30
Christopher J. Moore	December 30
Mitchell A. Pabis	December 30
Daniel F. Rinzel	December 30
Edward C. Stance	December 30

On behalf of Potomac Assembly # 2204, to those who were born in the Month of December

May Your Birthday be Blessed

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Just Thinking...

Free Will Means Choosing

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Those storied gifts to the newborn Jesus from three wise men (probably Zoroastrian priests) prompt people to give everything from fruit cakes to diamonds at Christmas.

“Do your Christmas shopping early,” is the cry of advertisers heard repeatedly as this major holiday approaches. The news media counts down shopping days to urge moms, dads, sweethearts, and just-friends to hire themselves to the nearest Bon Ton so that they might play Santa.

Storekeepers report that the bulk of their annual sales are at Christmas time. They would go broke were it not for this holiday tradition.

Nothing wrong with giving Christmas presents. In their way, they mark the holiday as festive. The Christmas spirit transcends Christianity; everybody – except essential public servants and those employed in restaurants and entertainment – gets a holiday.

Originally the word holiday meant holy day.

The Magi sought to do homage to a newborn king when they followed the star that shone on the stable in Bethlehem. Symbolically, these men represent the world's peoples to whom Jesus was the Messiah. He redeemed humanity stained with original sin and opened the gates of heaven.

Jesus became man eons after Adam and Eve gave in to pride, first among sins. And only God becoming a man was capable of making reparation. The Magi's gifts explain that. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for death and mourning.

Back to holiday giving. When the country was deep in the Depression, a stocking holding an orange and assorted nuts was a Christmas gift for many children.

Later, inflation spiked the price of gifts. Unfortunately, spending something extra out of love or respect can spark avarice in some greedy recipients. They judge a gift's value to score the giver's intent.

Christmas and giving have nearly become synonymous. Families gathering from near and far bear gifts. Even an inexpensive present is *de rigueur*.

This holy day's real significance is a memorial to Jesus becoming a babe so that some 33 years on He could sacrifice Himself on the cross to expiate our sins.

A Midwest pastor in the 1940s always began his midnight Mass sermon retelling the Garden of Eden narrative wherein Satan entices Eve and Adam to disobey their Maker. That first sin demonstrates free will. God the Father gave that mark of humanity to us as a test — the exam we must pass to gain an eternal life of happiness. Had our First Parents obeyed, human behavior would have always conformed to God's will. We can only try to imagine how that would have affected human life today.

“The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame,” Genesis says. They did feel that after the first sin. Maybe the Garden covered the entire globe, having a single, comfortable climate. Perhaps they and their progeny were intended to live blissfully, collecting food from plants needing no husbandry? The forbidden fruit that grew on the tree of knowledge had some particular purpose that only God knows.

It turned out that God gave Adam and Eve the freedom to choose. And they made an enormously terrible choice. Free will confers opportunities to please God by making good choices. His Catch-22 is that this freedom also can make us sinners

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EVENTS AROUND THE COUNCIL TABLE

459—Fitzgerald Council:

December

1—Nocturnal Adoration 9 pm-6 am
2—Rosary at Duke Street Abortion Provider 9am
6—Officers Meeting virtual 7 pm
13—Business Meeting 7pm

January

3—Officers Meeting virtual 7 pm
5—Nocturnal Adoration 9 pm-6 am
6—Rosary at Duke Street Abortion Provider 9am
10—Business Meeting 7pm

5998—Mount Vernon Council -

(Bingo Fridays (except Good Fri.), & first Sunday of the month except 1/1, 7/4).

For the details below, GS is Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

December

2, 9, 16, 23, 30—Abortion Rosary & prayer 8am-12pm
7—Ofcr Mtg 6:30, Rosary 7:30, Membership Mtg 8pm
9—Council Children's Christmas Breakfast 9am-12pm
12—St. Louis Pancake Breakfast 8am
16—Council / Assembly Adult Christmas Party 6pm
17—Good Shepherd Pancake Breakfast 7am
24—Good Shepherd Christmas Mass Parking 3pm
27—Announce KCIC Poster Contest Winners
31—Feast of the Holy Family-Saint Louis & Good Shepherd

January

4—Ofcr Mtg 6:30, Rosary 7:30, Membership Mtg 8pm
6, 13, 20, 27—Abortion Rosary & prayer 8am-12pm
14—St. Louis Pancake Breakfast 8am
15—GS/SL Dodgeball and Free Throw Contests at SL, 10am
18—Social with Pro Life Topic, 6:30pm
19—National March for Life GS, Mass, March, Dinner 9am
21—Good Shepherd Pancake Breakfast 7am

11170—Fort Belvoir Council:

December

6—Rosary 7pm, & Membership Mtg (Virtual) 7:30pm
28—Officers Meeting (Virtual) 7pm

January

3—Rosary 7pm, & Membership Mtg (Virtual) 7:30pm
25—Officers Meeting (Virtual) 7pm

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Save the Date.

Fourth Degree Exemplification on April 13 in Richmond, VA

The next **Fourth Degree Exemplification** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13, 2024** at St. Edward the Confessor Parish (Bon Air), Richmond, VA (click [here](#) for parish address & other parish info). For Knights in good standing that are interested in becoming Sir Knights of the Potomac Assembly, they will need to **submit a Form 4** (click [here](#)) via their Council's Financial Secretary **by Tuesday, March 26th, 2024**. Please pass this information to any Knight in good standing that is interested in joining the Fourth Degree and our Assembly. If you or they have any questions or need further information, please send an email to FN@Assembly2204.org and we will provide the whatever is needed to have them join our Assembly!

Potomac Assembly Color Corps

We want you ... for the Color Corps! The Color Corps of the Knights of Columbus are the uniformed members of the Fourth Degree and our Assembly. They are the ones that are most noticeable at church and public functions, parades, etc.

The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large. The Color Corps members exemplify all the principles of our Order:

- Charity - by the gift of their time and energies necessary to practice, perfect and perform the ceremonials and sword drill;
- Unity – by the united efforts of Sir Knights to practice and perfect a coordinated drill for the good of the Church and the Order;
- Fraternity – by expressing an “Esprit de Corps,” sharing a common desire for drill excellence and camaraderie; and
- Patriotism – by performing precision drill as a salute to God and to country and visually exhibiting a love for both.

Please look at our website and the many invaluable activities our Color Corps has supported including funerals for our Sir Knights that have gone before us, Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the George Washington Birthday and St. Patrick's Day Parades in Alexandria, and many other great events. Read the Faithful Navigator's message in the October 2023 NavLOG and consider ordering the Official Regalia Dress and joining the ranks of the Color Corps!

George Washington Birthday Parade

The George Washington Birthday Parade is scheduled for Monday, February 19 in Old Town Alexandria, VA. Last year, we won the first-place award for the best Color/Honor Guard and fully intend to defend our title this coming year so please get your marching shoes ready and mark this on your calendars! This isn't limited to Color Corps members or even the Sir Knights of the Potomac Assembly so pass along to your Brothers in the Councils we support as all are welcome to march with us. More info to come but ... save the date!

Potomac Assembly 2204 Website (www.Assembly2204.org)

For the latest up to date information and resources supporting many of the items above and other activities past, present and future, please consult our website. We live in a dynamic and ever-changing world but strive to keep it as up to date as possible so it has the latest and greatest information for your use and benefit. As always, any questions or additional information needed to help you ... just email FN Joe Graf (FN@Assembly2204.org).