



K of C Newsletter
January, 2012
St. Joseph the Worker
Council # 15136
Sumner, Washington &
Orting, Washington
<http://www.kofc15136.org/>

Business Meeting: Second Monday

Officer's Meeting: Fourth Monday

Time: 7:00 pm

Meeting Place: Alternate months between St Andrew,
Sumner WA, and SS Comas & Damian, Orting, WA .

Grand Knight – John Mergens

Deputy Grand Knight – Jerry Boardway

Chaplain – Rev. Jack Shrum

Chancellor – Jason Sullivan

Financial Secretary – John Aumell

Recorder – John Higgins

Treasurer – Joe Ostle

Advocate – Michael Hottott

Warden – Michael Johnson

Inside Guard – Ron Hurst

Outside Guard – Dirk Brier

Trustee 3rd Year – Steve Rossignol

Trustee 2nd Year – Virgil Hedlund

Trustee 1st Year – Joseph Rempe

Program Director – DGK Jerry Boardway

Committee Chairs:

Church – Steve Rossignol

Community – Jason Sullivan

Council – Michael Johnson

Family – Joe Ostle

Youth – Dirk Brier

Pro-Life: – Chad Druffel

Items for our Newsletter:

Call Mike Hottott at 253.921.0389 or e-mail

him at mhottott@pugetsound.edu

Newsletter available at: <http://www.kofc15136.org/>

Electronic or hard copy of our newsletter is available.

Next Business Meeting
Monday, January 9th, 2011
at 7:00 pm in Orting.

Next Officer's Meeting
Monday, January 23rd, 2011
at 7:00 pm in Orting.

(The Meeting place in Sumner is at St. Andrew Church
Hall Bldg. B. In Orting it is at SS.Cosmas & Damian
Parish in the meeting room.)

Family of the Month December 2011
To Be Named Jan 9th

Knight of the Month December 2011
John Higgins

Attendance December Business Meeting: 18
Attendance Dec Officer's Meeting: cancelled

Membership Update: 63 Brother Knights and
1 candidates for the 1st Degree January 9th 2012.

Highlights from our Last Meeting...

- Use of the Kincaid Hall
- Pancake Breakfast plans for Dec 11th
- The Archbishop's visit to St Andrews
- Seminarian Cody Ross visit December 9th
- Fundraiser for Jacob Rondeau request
- Lecturer Joe Shaughnessy's inspirational reading

Of Interest for our January Meeting...

. 1st Degree Ceremony

- Christmas card sales report
- National Night of Prayer report
- Volunteer hours report
- Pancake Breakfast in Kincaid Hall report
- Lecturer Joe Shaughnessy's inspirational reading

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 07 Jan, Safe Environment Training, 9am - noon, Orting
- 07 Jan, 2nd & 3rd Degree Exemplification, Puyallup
- 17 Jan, March For Life in Olympia
- 22 Jan, Youth Free Throw Championship, Puyallup
- 31 Jan, Annual Report of Volunteer Hours due to FS
- 04 Feb, Saturday: World Marriage Day Parish Event
- 15 Feb, Semiannual Audit Report as of December 31st
- 22 Feb, Ash Wednesday
- 14 Apr, Fourth Degree Exemplification, Lakewood

Our Principles

The Knights Of Columbus 4th Degree Emblem by Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight



The triad emblem of the Fourth Degree features the Dove, the Cross and the Globe. The Dove — classic symbol of the Holy Spirit and Peace — is shown hovering over the orb of the earth (Globe). Both are mounted on a variation of the Crusader's Cross — that which was found on the tunics and capes of the Crusading Knights who battled to regain the Holy Land from the pagans.

Our Honored Order cherishes as its patron Christopher Columbus.

Christopher — Christ Bearer.

Columbus — Dove of Peace, symbolizing the Paraclete.

Spiritually, the sacred symbols on the emblem typify the Union of the Three Divine Persons in one Godhead — the most Blessed Trinity.

The Globe — God the Father, Creator of the Universe.

The Cross — God the Son, Redeemer of Mankind.

The Dove — God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity.

The colors of the symbols are:

A **blue** Globe with the lands of the Western Hemisphere in white.

A **red** Cross with gold borders, and gold knobs at the end of the points forming the ends of the arms of the Cross (also known as the Isabella Cross).

A **white** dove.

Red, white and blue are the colors of the flag of the country in which our Order originated; and are used to stress the basic principal of the Fourth Degree...PATRIOTISM.

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Silver Knight Award During Any Year of Membership

- Maintain 3rd Degree membership in good standing
- Attend at least 3 Business Meetings
- Participate in 3 Service Programs
- Meet with Insurance Agent or maintain Insurance Member status
- Recruit 2 new members

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Family of the Month December 2011

Family Committee Chairman Joe Ostle will announce the Family of the Month Award for December 2011 at the January Business Meeting, January 9th, 2012

Knight of the Month December 2011

John Higgins



GK John Mergens presenting John Higgins with the December Knight of the Month

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Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser Sunday, December 11th

Our fund raising Pancake Breakfast worked out well, and no fuses were blown! Eight Brother Knights set up the hall on Saturday and 16 brothers helped cook, serve, and clean up on Sunday. GK John Mergnes wants to especially thank those Brother Knights for their dedication.



Breakfast Chairman Jerry Boardway & cook Ron Hurst



Terry Bowie, Ron Hurst, & Joe Rempé waiting for the official start of the breakfast.



Terry Bowie and Joe Wilson flipping pancakes.



Joe Noll, Joe Wilson, Jerry B. John Higgins & Mike Johnson are ready to start serving.

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THIRD in the State Pennies for Heaven Campaign

If you didn't know, this past fraternal year, our start up council placed 3rd in the state for the amount of our contribution to the State Council's Pennies For Heaven collection. Our contribution exceeded 400 percent of our original quota. Your generous donations added to this honor. So thank you for your contribution to this worthy cause, contributing to the education costs of our vital seminarians/future priests.

The money raised for the Pennies for Heaven Campaign supports our seminarians and promote vocations. The total collected in your diocese is presented to your diocesan vocation office in July.

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REMINDER - Volunteer Hours aka: Individual Fraternal Activity

Grand Knight John Mergens asks that you please fill in your volunteer hours on the volunteer worksheet available at the sign up table at every meeting. Every community and church activity count! Church, community, youth, pro-life, Habitat for Humanity, blood donor activity, doing chores for sick/disabled members and their families, visits to the sick in their homes, nursing homes, hospitals and visits of condolences to the bereaved, raising money parking cars for All Saints parish during the Puyallup fair, etc. It all counts as service to the community, the Church, and to the council.

Financial Secretary John Aumell adds, "this information is totaled and is reported to Supreme each year. This data is significant in keeping the Knights of Columbus as a tax exempt organization."

The Individual Fraternal Activity report is due on January 31st, so please have your report of the hours you have volunteered to FS John **BEFORE** then!

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CONGRATULATIONS...

(Degree exemplifications)

First Degree exemplifications: none this month

2nd & 3rd Degree exemplifications: none this month

Transfers: none this month

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Committee Reports:

(What happened and what's up next)

Program Director's Report
Jerry Boardway DGK

I want to thank everyone that helped out this past month with the pancake breakfast, Christmas tree lot, selling Christmas Cards etc. This was our first breakfast at Kincaid hall and the first of many to come. I think we will do something a little different for the folks after the 10:30 Mass (Brunch sounds good). January will be a busy month, Pro Life March for life, Youth safe environment training, and youth basketball throw etc. I have been looking into the legality of having raffles. I will bring that up at our next meeting January 9th at SS Cosmas and Damian. Let's all remember We Save Lives and we Change Lives. We are a "Catholic, family, fraternal, Service Organization" and have made a commitment to be of Service to the Church, community, council, family, youth and pro-life.

Church-Steve Rossignol: Thanks to all the knights that helped the Men's Club with Christmas tree sales. It was a great success and a big help not only for the Men's Club but the church. A big thanks to everyone that sold Christmas cards, that was a big success also. We certainly did our part to Keep Christ in Christmas.

Community-Jason Sullivan: I went to Saint Francis House with the prayer group from SS Cosmas & Damian before Christmas and have an information booklet I will give to our community director at our next meeting. There are many different things that we can do to be of help. Saint Vincent De Paul & Emmanuel Food Pantry could always use more help.

Council-Michael Johnston: Thanks to Mike Hottott for a super news letter once again. Please call our Council Director (Mike Johnston) if you have any questions or suggestions for our web site. Mike has done a Great Job putting together and maintaining our web site.

Family-Joe Ostle: The family of the month for January won't be put in the news letter this month but will be in the February news letter. Joe wants to surprise them first.

Youth-Dirk brier: There are many things in the works right now. Basketball throw championship (10 to 14 year olds) at All Saints with Holy Disciples, All Saints & St Andrew. Let's all pull together and help Dirk make this a great success. Dirk is still looking at getting the youth pro-life poster contest and essay contest going by spring break.

Pro-Life-Chad Druffel: The Mach for life will be this January 17th. Please help to make this a big turnout in Olympia.

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Grand Knight's Message

Report from GK John Mergens

When you read this, Christmas will be over and we start a new year. Amongst the shopping and decorating, our members found time to participate in many of the Council activities.

December 5th was our business meeting with 18 brother Knights attending. The meeting was held at the Kincaid Hall and it gave us an opportunity to check out the hall for our December 11th breakfast. I want to thank those brothers for their dedication who made the Pancake Breakfast fund raising event a success. December 8th was the National Night of Prayer for Life and I am proud to say we had 12 brothers praying the Rosary together. December 12th was the mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, celebrated by Archbishop Sartain. Three of our brothers in Honor Guard regalia escorted the statue from Kincaid Hall to St Andrew Church. There were 8 Honor Guards present, 5 from other Assemblies, when the Archbishop arrived at the church. The church was full and a very impressive mass.

December 19th. Cody Ross, the Seminarian our Council and the Men's Club supported last year, made a visit to St. Andrew. We had a reception for him in the church office and 12 brothers attended. Cody spoke about his vocation and our Council presented him with a check of \$500, thanks to the Men's Club. Cody was grateful for the monetary support. December 20th Brother Terry Bowie, my wife and I joined others at the Planned Parenthood in Tacoma to pray to our Blessed Mother to end abortions.

December 21st. Tootsie Roll Drive chairman Ron Hurst and I delivered a check for \$2,528.92 to ARC of Washington due to your efforts in handing out Tootsie Rolls and collecting donations.

I am proud to be the Grand Knight of such an active Council. I have the privilege of picking a Knight of the month and December's Knight was John Higgins.

January looks to be just as busy. January 7th there will be a 2nd and 3rd Degree at All Saints hall in Puyallup. It is close

and we have 10 brothers ready for the next degree. Also on that same day there will be a "Safe Environment Training" at Cosmas & Damian from 9:00 to Noon. January 9th will be our first business meeting of the new year, at SS. Cosmas and Damian hall 7:00 P.M.

January 17th is the special day that thousands of people go to the Olympia "March for Life" to pray and encourage the politicians to end abortions. There is a bus from St. Andrew Church, but you must sign up.

January 22nd our Council will participate in the "Free Throw" championship to be held at All Saints hall in Puyallup at 1:00 P.M. and we will need help from you brother Knights.

Our Council will participate in helping with "Hospitality Sundays after the 8:00 & 10:30 Masses starting in February

I enjoy wishing a "Happy Birthday and Anniversaries to our brother Knights January birthdays are - John Aumell, Eugene Buckmeier, Arnie Huck, Richard Tangen, and Randy Wallis.

January Anniversaries - Lee & Karen Raffle, Bill and Lena Wilson. I am still waiting to hear from some other members. **Please let me know when your wedding anniversaries are so I can send you a message of congratulations.**

I wish all the Knights and their families a very happy and healthy new year.

John Mergens, GK

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Report from FS John Aumell Membership Dues

Dear Brother Knights:

Annual dues are as follows:

\$30.00 - Regular Members Associate and Insurance Members

\$12.00 - Honorary Members

\$0.00 - Honorary Life Members

 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS <small>IN SERVICE TO GOD, IN SERVICE TO ALL</small>		ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CO 15138 <small>AAA Burrnet/Olymp, WA 98300</small>	
Statement Date:	12-18-2011	Amount Enclosed:	30.00
Member #:	3472454	Balance Due:	30.00
Michael G Horst 17912 7th Street Ct E Sumner, WA 98983-0208		Make Check Payable to: ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CO 15138	
Send Payment to Financial Secretary: John G Aumell 5130 Francis Ct. S.E. Auburn, WA 98802			
Search and select for your records:			
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS <small>IN SERVICE TO GOD, IN SERVICE TO ALL</small>		ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CO 15138 <small>AAA Burrnet/Olymp, WA 98300</small>	
Membership Bill for:	Michael G Horst		
Statement Date:	12-18-2011		
Amount Due:	30.00		
Detail of Charges:		Previous Balance:	-30.00
Current Assessments:			
12-18-2011	Dues Assessment		30.00
12-18-2011	Dues Adjustment		30.00
		Total Due:	30.00
Note: This correspondence represents your normal billing notice. Please disregard the check payment instructions to St. Joseph the Worker Council. Please make your checks payable to KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OR K of C. If you have any questions, you can call me at 253-735-0885. Thank you for your timely payments and for all you do as Knights of Columbus. Here's to a very successful year in our Council.			

K of C Aprons

This year, we ask you again to consider including an additional \$5.00 for a **total payment of \$35.00 for regular members** of which \$5.00 will accrue to our Pennies For Heaven collection. Prompt payment of your annual dues is appreciated and allows the Council to maintain financial integrity each and every month.

Also, please remember to submit your **Annual Fraternal Survey Worksheet**, which documents your volunteer services to youth, church, community, council, blood drives, visits/caring for the sick and bereaved, pro-life, etc. This information is vital to the Order, not only to recognize the significant impact the Knights of Columbus has in our communities and throughout the world, but, it also assists in the Order maintaining its tax exempt status. Copies of the form can be obtained at our monthly meeting. We need to submit our total hours of volunteer service by Jan 31, 2012, so please provide these forms to me at your earliest opportunity so I can report promptly to Supreme Council, our volunteer service totals. Thank you.

Finally, on behalf of the Council's officers and trustees, thank you all for the tremendous impact we have had in our parishes and communities. From our well received breakfasts to the Pro-Life, Tootsie Roll Drive, Keep Christ in Christmas events, to ushering, lecturing, hospitality, seminarian support, etc. We Knights are making a difference in our parish community!

Thank you and much good health and success in the New Year.

Vivat Jesus,

John Aumell, Financial Secretary

PS - You can mail your dues checks, payable to the Knights of Columbus, to me at: 5130 Francis Ct. S.E., Auburn, WA 98092. Alternatively, you can bring your dues check or cash to our monthly meeting where I can provide you a receipt. I will either mail your 2012 dues card or hand deliver to you at our February meeting. God willing, the 2012 cards will be printed using the Supreme website's membership card stock.

Any questions, you can call me at 253-735-0885

Finally, our current membership count is 63, with 24 associates and 39 insurance members.

We currently have 4 Honorary Life members: Charles Braunschweig, John Mergens, Joe Shaughnessy and William Wilson.

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GK John contacted a seamstress about producing aprons for \$18 to \$22 depending on the K of C patch used and/or embroidery. These aprons would be nice to have at our K of C events where we are cooking, and a great way to let people know we belong to the Knights. More info to come.

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Seminarian Support



12 Brother Knights met with Cody Ross.

On Monday, December 19th, Cody Ross met with 12 of our Council members at St. Andrew Church in the parish office at 5:30 PM. Cody spoke about his vocation and shared his experiences on his journey to priesthood.



Cody Ross talks about his vocation.

Our Council and the Men's Club presented him with a check for \$500.00 to support him in his studies. Cody was grateful for our support and we are honored to have the opportunity to support him.



GK John Mergens presents Cody Ross with a check for \$500 to support his seminary studies.

Our council assists Cody Ross at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon with financial support during his time of study until ordination. Each member of the council is encouraged to send him a card at special times of the year, or better yet, write him a letter of support and encouragement and request their prayers. Cody Ross's mailing address is:

One Abbey Drive St. Benedict, OR. 97373

And, you may email him at: codyross@hotmail.com

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March For Life

Report from Pro-Life Chair, Chad Druffel

Brothers,

While you are walking out of Mass this weekend, shift your thoughts briefly from Advent and Christmas to the March For Life in January. The Respect Life Committee will have a table with a sign-up sheet. If you feel so inclined, they would welcome anyone willing to stand at the table. If there is nobody at the table, consider it an open invitation to you.

I have no doubt that we will be ignored by the media and the majority of the legislature once again, no matter how many thousands of people attend. I had the opportunity to be at the national March for Life in Washington D.C. last year and there were paltry few articles about the March that had 400,000 people attend. It was massive... absolutely massive!! And the sheer volume of youth was amazing. I would venture to say that 75% of that 400,000 were in their teens and early 20's. The sight of so many youth was encouraging... and I'm sure it frightens and disgusts those darkened souls in the culture of death. They can ignore us, but they know we are out here each and every day standing for life.

The March For Life is on Tuesday, January 17th. St. Andrew will have one or two buses going. This year is a little different in that the morning Mass for Life will be at St Martins (instead of St Michaels as previous years). Archbishop Peter Sartain will be celebrating the Mass.

Mass For Life
Archbishop Peter Sartain, Celebrant
January 17th, 2012, Time: 9:30 AM
St. Martin's Pavilion
St. Martin's University
Lacey, WA

In the life of Christ,
Chad Druffel

<http://washingtonmarchforlife.org/>

"We come to remember the 39th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade—the January 22, 1973, Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion, took away the rights of millions of innocent children, and led the way to an era of death. Even before that landmark decision, in 1970, the people of our state passed Referendum 20 - making Washington the only state that has passed abortion-on-demand by a vote of the people. It is more important than ever to make our voice heard."

The National Night of Prayer for Life

The National Night of Prayer for Life was on Thursday, December 8th. 12 Brother Knights from our Council lead the rosary for the 2nd hour from 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Many people ask "What is the special significance of this apostolate and why is the four hour period begun on the eve of the Immaculate Conception, December 8?" It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (then celebrated on Dec. 9), that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the Unborn, first appeared to Saint Juan Diego in 1531. The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and to invoke her intercession in bringing about a profound love for all human life, especially the innocent Unborn.

Chad Druffel <chdruffel@hotmail.com>

Safe Environment Training

Youth chairman Dirk Brier wants to remind all council members to attend the Safe Environment Training on January 7th (9am to noon) presented by Monica Rodrigues at Ss. Cosmas & Damian Church Hall in Orting. We strongly suggest if you will be working with the youth of our parishes that you attend this important instruction. It is required that at least one member of our council has this training when working on a youth orientated activity of our council.

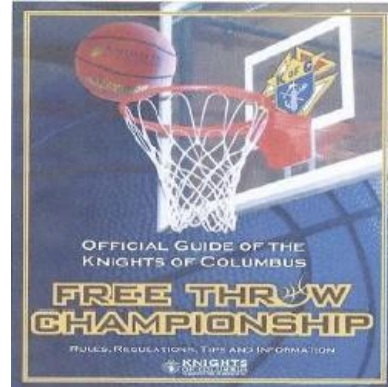
If a brother knight needs more information, he can contact Monica at: Monica Rodrigues (360)893-3154
monicar@centurytel.net

K of C Essay Contest

The essay contest is open to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools — in grades 8, 9, 10,

11 and 12 during the current school year. Councils are encouraged to sponsor essay contests at Catholic schools in their communities. The theme of the essay contest is "The responsibility of the Catholic citizen in a free society." Contest participants are asked to write a 500-700 word essay based on a quote.

Free Throw Championship



The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for our council will be held at All Saints Parish, Sunday, January 22nd. Registration will be at O'Brien Hall. Boys and girls ages 10-14 may participate. Proof of age is required; either a parent should accompany the child when registering or the child should provide a copy of his/her birth certificate. This event will be hosted by All Saints Council 1629 with Holy Disciples Council 11948 and our council participating. It will start at 2 PM with set-up starting at 1:30 PM.

Tootsie Roll Drive Update



Tootsie Roll Drive chairman Ron Hurst presents a check to ARC of Washington

On December 21st. Tootsie Roll Drive chairman Ron Hurst and GK John Mergens delivered a check for \$2,528.92 to ARC of Washington due to *your* efforts in handing out Tootsie Rolls and collecting donations. Rumor has it we are in the top five councils for the most donations collected!

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What Your Officers Do... The Grand Knight



The grand knight is the highest ranking elected officer of his council and is responsible for observing the laws of the Order and his council. The office of grand knight is one that is rich in opportunities to serve his fellow Knights and to lead his council in service to family, Church and community. Additionally, the grand knight must ensure the membership, insurance and programming growth of his council and the involvement of all its members.

The grand knight is responsible for the overall welfare of the council. Elected annually by the council membership, the grand knight must provide thoughtful and inspired leadership to the council officers, the Service Program directors, chairmen and members of the council.

More specifically, his duties include: presiding over council meetings; acting as an ex officio member of all committees; appointing the membership and program directors and working with them on the selection of Service Program chairmen, membership recruitment teams and retention chairmen; convening officers for a monthly meeting; appointing special committees not mandated by the laws of the council; overseeing the proper exemplification of the First Degree; and, finally, making sure that all reports and reporting forms required by the state or Supreme Council offices are submitted on time.

Another area of the grand knight's duties is overseeing the important work of the council's admission committee. Immediately after entering upon his term of office, the grand knight must appoint an admission committee composed of seven members. The grand knight monitors their work and makes sure their results are in line with the laws governing the actions of the committee.

The grand knight also interacts with the financial secretary and treasurer to ensure the council is meeting its financial obligations to the Supreme and state councils, and others. The grand knight countersigns all orders drawn and signed by the financial secretary and all checks drawn and signed by the treasurer. He also reads the vouchers from the financial secretary of moneys paid to the treasurer and from the treasurer of moneys deposited in the bank. By these procedures, the grand knight monitors the performance of the financial secretary and treasurer, working with them to help the council meet its financial obligations.

The grand knight is a member of the Advisory Board charged with general supervision of a Columbian Squires circle sponsored by his council.

Finally, the grand knight, together with the deputy grand knight and trustees, is responsible for recommending a chaplain. He also appoints a lecturer.

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Upcoming 2nd & 3rd Degree Exemplifications



January 7th, 2012 Puyallup

Second and Third Degree Ceremonies - Unity & Fraternity

The second and third degree ceremony does not have any requirements or applications to fill out. (Your council dues cover the cost of the ceremony). The ceremonies are also typically done together, so a Knight will have jumped from a 1st degree to 3rd degree Knight by the end of the process. Since the ceremony is held usually at another council, Knights of our council usually carpool together in support of one another.

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Next Fourth Degree Exemplification

Exemplifications in fraternal year 2011–2012:

Oak Harbor - February 18, 2012

Kennewick - March 17, 2012

Lakewood - April 14, 2012

Spokane - May 5, 2012

Vancouver - June 2, 2012



For details on the upcoming 4th Degree Exemplification in Oak Harbor on Feb 18th, please see page 10 in the Washington State Council 2011-2012 Bulletin for December 2011 at

<http://www.kofc-wa.org/Bulletins/current.pdf>

If you have questions or interest in the Insurance program, please contact:

Ron Scholz, FIC

(253) 804-9147

Fax (253) 804-9176

Cell (253) 740-0408, rscholzkofo@juno.com

4th Degree Color Guard

On December 12th three of our brothers in Honor Guard regalia escorted the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Kincaid Hall to St Andrew church. When Archbishop Sartain arrived at the church, 8 Honor Guards were present, 5 of which were from other Assemblies. Mass was then celebrated by the Archbishop Sartain for Our Lady of Guadalupe to a full church. A very impressive event.

What's in the Liturgical Calendar for January

January 04 Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 24 Feast of St. Francis de Sales

January 27 Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

January 31 Feast of St. John Bosco

Dates of Catholic Holy Days and Holidays 2012

Solemnity of Mary – January 1

Epiphany – January 6

Candlemas – February 2

Ash Wednesday – February 22

Solemnity of the Annunciation – March 25

Palm Sunday – April 1

Maundy Thursday – April 5

Good Friday – April 6

Holy Saturday – April 7

Easter – April 8

Solemnity of the Ascension – May 17

Pentecost – May 27

All Saints Day – November 1

All Souls Day – November 2

Advent – December 2

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Dec 8

Christmas – December 25

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) was Doctor of the Church and one of the Middle's Ages' finest minds. At a young age, Thomas startled his teachers with the question, "what is God?" During his life of service and study, Thomas struggled to answer this essential question of faith.

St. Thomas Aquinas was born to noble German parents and entered a Benedictine monastery at the age of five. He later joined the Dominican order of teachers and preachers against the wishes of his parents and served as a teacher in Naples, Italy. His brothers kidnapped him and confined him to the family home in Germany for nearly two years.

According to legend, his family threw a prostitute into his room to tempt him away from the religious life, and the saint drove her away with a flaming hot poker. Thomas eventually escaped and returned to his Dominican life. He served as a university professor at Cologne and Paris as well as prolific writer and preacher.

Why Thomas Aquinas is Doctor of the Church?

Thomas believed that reason proved faith and that the mind was humanity's greatest gift to understand God. Thomas never finished his greatest work, the Summa Theologica, an foundational text in Church doctrine. A vision at Mass shortly before he died in 1274 convinced St. Thomas Aquinas that he knew nothing and God knew everything.

Keep Christ in Christmas Report of the sale of Christmas cards next month
