

The Lancer

**“Strong in Faith and Service”
December 2015**



**The Monthly Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus
St. John the Baptist Council No. 10232**

P.O. Box 252

Madison, AL 35758

Website: <http://madison-kc.org>



Dear Faithful Brother Knights and Families:

As December is upon us, we come to the half waypoint of the fraternal year. Looking at what we have done this past 6 month's, the STJB council has kept up its reputation for being one of the most active councils in Alabama, and I would like to think one of the most fraternal.

The church's new year has begun. The beginning of Advent was marked by the blessing and lighting of the Advent Wreath in church this weekend. This is a most joyous season and a time when we should look back and reflect on the past year and thank God for all of our many blessings. The holidays can be a very stressful time in our lives with travel, family visits, shopping deadlines, getting out Christmas cards in the mail, finding this year's got to have toy, not to mention the numerous and often conflicting social events. When things get to be hectic, please try not to forget the real reason for Christmas – it is the celebration of the birth of Christ the King. The birth at Bethlehem was and must always be seen as the supreme manifestation that God cares for us as we are. Jesus cares for all of us, burdened by anxiety, distress, doubts, confusion - the trials of life that we can carry so heavily. Throughout our daily lives, by our words and actions, we who are followers of Jesus Christ must show our dedication to his life and our redemption.

Christmas is once again under attack by an unbelieving minority, and our society seems to have placed God on the back burner as humankind once again tries to save itself from itself. We know the story and we know the outcome, yet we stubbornly endure suffering arrogantly confident that our ways are superior to God's perfect plan for us. However, let us be mindful of the real meaning of Christmas. The spiritual awakening that takes place in each of us in the realization that our Savior is born into this world. We rejoice at Christmas and rightly so. Joy is in our hearts and our lips. We must make certain that we have an abundance of room for Christ. Let us be generous with our Love of Christ and each other. Come join us and receive the greater blessing of giving and be like the Wise Men, who experienced the real meaning of Christmas by sharing it with our Savior.

Please do not be taken in by all the hype with businesses everywhere wanting to sell us everything we could ever want. But is this what we need? Do we need Black Friday sales and all the “stuff” that we can buy to be happy? Brothers, as Catholic men we need time with our loved ones, time to reflect on our relationship with the church, and time to pray to God for strength to be good men, good spouses and good fathers. This is the time of the year when we need family.

May each of you and your families have a joyful and blessed Christmas.

Fraternally,
Danny Garcia

Family of the Month

The family of the month is very much involved in the church and the Knights of Columbus. The Family of the Month for December is **Kevin and Judy Rodriguez.**

Knight of the Month

The Knight of the Month is involved in many activities within the council. This month's Knight of the Month is **Brother Eric Herbert.**

Important Council Announcements

- **Council 10232 Dues Now Being Collected!**

They can be paid at the council meeting on **December 3rd** or by remitting a check (**please no cash**) in the amount of **\$40** (you may add an extra \$5 for the council's charity fund if you like) payable to "**Council 10232**" to **Ron Belz, Financial Secretary at 78 Jay Drive, Madison, AL 35758**. **Please contact the Grand Knight for relief of dues should a financial or medical condition exists.**

- **Assembly 2420 Dues Now Being Collected!**

Assembly 2420 dues can be paid at the Assembly meeting on December 10th or by remitting a check (**please no cash**) in the amount of **\$15** (you may add an extra \$5 for the assembly's regalia fund if you like) payable to "**Assembly 2420**" and mailing to **Danny Garcia, Faithful Comptroller at 124 Mountain View Lane, Madison, AL 35758**. **Please contact the Faithful Navigator, Joe McCarty for relief of dues should a financial or medical hardship exist.**

- **Bunco, Sunday December 13th, Church Basement**

The December Dirty Santa Bunco game will occur on Sunday December 13th beginning at 6:30pm. Bunco is a fun dice game for adults, which permits fun adult fellowship. No skill is required, only \$5 a person and a covered dish to share. **Because this is a special event, please RSVP brother Tom Hart at 256-464-9290 of your intention to participate so that enough gifts are purchased.**

Council 10232 Service Activities

Church Activities

First Saturday Mass and Benediction December 5th

The council has been actively supporting the First Saturday devotion conducted on the first Saturday of each month. Mass begins at 8:30am in the chapel, which will be followed by Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Your presence at this service will be most welcome indeed.

Council Prayers for Priests Team Being Formed

The purpose of this program is to pray for our priests by name on a daily basis for his priestly intentions and his personal sanctification. This is accomplished through a team concept. When a priest is selected, a Team Leader is identified to recruit six other team members thus forming a seven-member team. Each Team Member attends Mass on his designated day of the week, recites at least one decade of the Holy Rosary daily, also recites the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily, and says the Daily Commitment Prayer daily. Participation in this program is not restricted to members of the Knights of Columbus, but would be open for participation to any Catholic desiring to participate. I hope you will offer your full support to this program and will be an active participant. Please contact Brother Joe McCarty to volunteer at joemccarty@ohiocpa.net.

Assistance with Christmas Preparations

Council members assisted the Arts & Environment Committee with Advent decorations after the 8:30am Mass on November 28th with the following projects:

1. **Raising up the Advent Hanging above the Altar**
2. **HYMNAL SWITCH in the Chapel**

Council Activities

Council Caps and Shirts

A small inventory of shirts and caps were purchased and are available for members to purchase for \$30 for a shirt and \$20 for a cap. Please see Grand Knight at next meeting if you are looking for apparel.

Knights Knight Out Being Planned

A word of thanks to brother John Horch for arranging our annual Christmas dinner event at Terra Nova's. The dinner will be on Saturday evening December 19th at 7:15pm. Please follow up with brother Horch at jwhorch@knology.net to RSVP.

Blood Drive, December 19th

Please turn out to support the next blood drive scheduled for the third Saturday in December. The need for blood is ever present and your gift could literally save many lives. Your participation is crucial at this time of year.

Donations for New Parish

The council has started a fund of sorts to raise funds to provide a gift to our new parish. Many of you have seen the big glass water bottle that we are trying to fill. Please feel free to drop in a dollar or two when you have a chance, and we will also be donating all of our cash from the 50/50 raffles. It's a small way in which we can help out with this special cause.

BBQ Butt Sale Nets Nice Sum

Thanks to all who supported pork BBQ butt sale and helped make it a success for the council. The council sold 52 pork butts (\$2080) and after expenses of \$1294.92, left us with a net of \$785.08.

Wedding Reception Support

The council provided support for the Bill Miller and Gay Cross wedding reception on Saturday November 28th. The council received a \$300 donation for helping serve guests and tend bar at the reception. The funds will be used to benefit the council's ID Fund. We are always looking for new ways to augment our collections throughout the year and this is one way of doing it.

ID Fund Check Delivered to Madison City Schools

The ID fund drive check was delivered to Madison City Schools by brother Tom O' Donnell. The council sincerely offers a heartfelt word of thanks to all of our members who assisted to help promote and raise funds for this worthy program.

Community Activities

Galaxy of Lights, December 18th

The annual council's participation in the Huntsville Botanical Garden's Galaxy of Lights is coming up on Friday night December 18th. Council members wanting to participate are urged to be at the garden by 4pm in order to eat and receive instructions. I notice will be going out soon to everyone with details about this wonderful event.

Angel Giving Tree

The council participated in the annual program by taking two tags from the Christmas trees in the vestibule to make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

US Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program

The council will once again make a donation to the Toys for Tots Program in order to make a child's Christmas that much more special. Our gift of \$100 will be used to purchase a bike for a child.

Culture of Life

Prayer Vigil at Huntsville Abortion Facility

The Saturday prayer vigil at the Huntsville abortion facility will take place at our regular time this SATURDAY, 11/28 on the sidewalk across from 4831 Sparkman Dr. starting at 9:15am. Your presence continues to be a witness for the innocent children that are being killed at this facility out of convenience.

Youth Activities

Basketball Free Throw Competition

The council will be conducting the basketball free throw completion in January in our school's gymnasium. The event will be held on a Sunday afternoon additional information will be sent via email to everyone as the time draws nearer.

An American Christmas Story

Since childhood, I have much admired George Washington, not only did he serve as commanding general of the Continental Army but he made a constant effort to be a good citizen, to lead his life in such a way that modern cynics find very difficult to credit.

When I lived in New Jersey we took the kids one Christmas Day to see the reenactment of Washington Crossing the Delaware, and the emotions that I felt that cold and snowy morning made such a strong emotional impact on me that every time I think about it I still get chills.

As we approach the Christmas Season I would like to once again share the following story about Washington crossing the Delaware and attacking the Hessians at Trenton. It's a compelling story that we all know, and which I am sure many of us read about as children. It is also a story that helps us understand that our existence as a free and independent nation wasn't always assured and there was a time in the darkest days of the Revolution when things seemed all but lost, but for a gallant ragtag army of farmers, shop keepers, and ordinary citizens who gave Americans a reason to hope.

Given the way the Revolutionary War was going in the months leading up to Christmas 1776, the most likely outcome was that we would remain a British colony. The British had defeated Washington and the ragtag American Army on Long Island and had driven them out of New York. The American army was retreating through New Jersey to Pennsylvania. The Americans retreated through cold and rain and morale was at a very low point.

Ninety percent of the soldiers who had served at Long Island were gone. Men had deserted, feeling that the cause for independence was lost. Many of Washington's men had no jackets to keep them warm and many more had no shoes and were forced to march with rags wrapped around their feet leaving blood stained tracks as they walked along. Private Enoch Anderson in a letter to his wife wrote,

*This night we lay amongst the leaves without tents or blankets to keep us warm.
There is a relentless cold wind and a persistent rain falling upon us. Our
provisions are very low and many do not have anything to eat.*

Things could not have been worse as General Washington led his men into winter quarters. Only about a third of his men had shoes, blankets were scarce, and tattered clothing was seldom replaced. Although Washington repeatedly petitioned for relief, the Continental Congress was unable to provide it. Time was running for Washington and he knew that within the month the enlistments for most of his men would expire and many would go home he had to do something to spur his men onward. In a speech to his troops trying to rally his men to stay beyond their enlistment date, he told them,

My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than can be

reasonably expected; but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably can never do under any other circumstances.

A few days before Christmas, General Washington called a meeting of his generals and worked out a plan to attack the Hessians encamped at Trenton. On Christmas night American troops would cross the Delaware and launch an attack on the town.

To inspire his soldiers, General Washington the day before the attack had the pamphlet, *Crisis*; authored by Thomas Paine who was serving as a volunteer aide with the army read aloud to them. The pamphlet begins with these famous lines,

These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.

On Christmas Day, Washington told an aide that he did not want to be disturbed and remained in his quarters until about 4 p.m. In his journal he writes that he dedicated his time for prayer and devotion and states that he prayed fervently for, "... our sick naked and starving men that God spare his already suffering men and get them through the terrible ordeal yet to come."

On Christmas evening, a terrible winter storm blew up with hurricane force winds, snow, sleet, and hail. That night, General Washington led 2400 men, the main body of his army, to a crossing point about nine miles upstream from Trenton. The night was very cold, and it was snowing hard. The men faced a difficult crossing for there were large chunks of ice floating in the river. Washington arrived on the New Jersey side of the Delaware in the early hours of the crossing. Wrapped in his cloak he stayed near the shore and watched his cold, wet soldiers make their way onto land. In the torchlight he noticed that many of his men were barefooted and ill clothed as they marched through the wet freezing mud, snow and driving winds.

By 4:00am the crossing being successful they prepared for the 9 mile march to Trenton. Washington knew that by the time they got to Trenton the sun would be up, and though he wanted to attack under the cover of darkness there was no turning back now. Through snow and sleet the Americans pressed on towards Trenton.

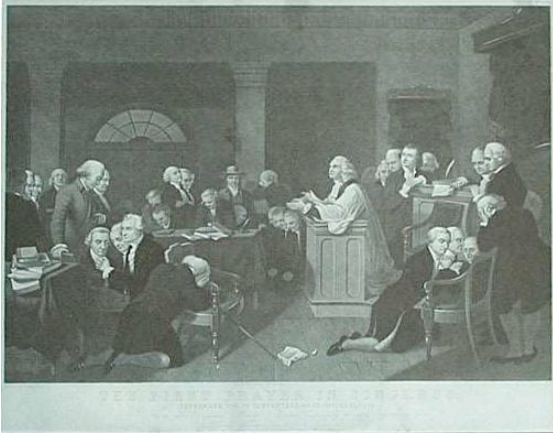
The Americans caught the Hessians by surprise and two hours from the time it had started, the Battle of Trenton was over. With a few losses of their own the Americans had captured nearly nine hundred Hessians. News of the victory spread across the land, lifting the spirits of patriots everywhere. Despite the battle's small numbers, the American victory inspired rebels throughout the colonies. With the success of the revolution in doubt, the army, which had been on the verge of collapse, achieved a dramatic victory, which inspired soldiers to serve longer and attracted new recruits to the ranks.

Two notable American officers were wounded: William Washington, cousin of the General, and Lieutenant James Monroe, the future President of the United States. Monroe was carried from the field bleeding badly after he was struck in the left shoulder by a musket ball, which severed an artery. Doctor John Riker clamped the artery, preventing him from bleeding to death. James Madison author of the Constitution and future President, the future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall, Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton all participated in the battle.

Against the odds, that ragtag army of army of farmers, shopkeepers, and ordinary citizens gave a wonderful Christmas gift for the struggling American cause.

The First Prayer In Congress 1774

Representatives from each of the 13 states met in Philadelphia to iron out differences that threatened to destroy the beginnings of a new nation. However, the battles between them intensified until statements made by Benjamin Franklin brought a sobering air to the room.



"I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

... I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business..."

September 1774. Carpenter's Hall – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The 35th Psalm fell on that day in the regular Episcopal readings. It was such an appropriate Psalm that all must have felt it was a message from God. This Psalm is still chosen today by those feeling overwhelmed by tyrannical forces, and it still has a profoundly uplifting effect on any audience that hears it.

The Actual First Prayer

September 7th, 1774 by Jacob Duche in Carpenters Hall, Philadelphia

"Lord our Heavenly Father, High and Mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech thee, on these our American States, who have fled to thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent on Thee, to Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give; take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle! Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst Thy people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. all this we ask In the Name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."

Witnesses record that during the prayer Washington knelt along with Henry, Randolph, Lee, Rutledge and Jay. The last two were originally the most vocal in opposing the idea of a prayer. After the prayer a profound silence followed, so deep was the sense of responsibility upon each man present.

Eventually a grave-looking man, coarsely dressed arose and began to speak, to the annoyance of the secretary who thought he was a country minister trying to show off. "But an unusual force of argument and a singular impassioned eloquence soon electrified the house." This was how the world first learned of one of the greatest orators of all time: Patrick Henry. In the future he

would often speak for the heart of the American people. Here his role was simply to state what had just been accomplished:

“British oppression has effaced the boundaries of the several colonies. The distinctions between Virginians and Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian but an American.”

Who would have expected that a few men praying could so profoundly change the course of history? Reverend Duche was later appointed Chaplain of Congress on July 6, 1776, two days after the Declaration of Independence. He officiated every morning at 9:00 am until September 28th, when while leaving church he was arrested by the British. While he served Congress he asked that his \$150 salary be used for the relief of widows and orphans of Pennsylvania officers.

Minutes for Council Business Meeting of November 5, 2015

Meeting Start Time: 7:30pm

The Grand Knight (GK) opened the meeting with prayer and the pledge of allegiance. We immediately went into a more serious mode for a 1st degree exemplification.

Brother Noah Resendez was welcomed into the Knights Council 10232 in the 1st Degree. Brings us to 293 members.

Recognition

- The Family of the Month award was given to Tom Hart. Also recognized was his wife, Diane.
- The belated Family of the Month award was given to Pat & Marci (don't know last name).
- The Knight of the Month award was given to John Phillip. John has been busy getting posters and banners for Keeping Christ in Christmas.

Activity Report

- **Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign** – Br. John Phillip described his efforts in getting banners and posters for the upcoming Christmas Season. He will also try to meet with Fr. Phil to see if these can be set up in the vestibule and hall during masses.
- **Gift for New Parish** - The GK brought out the big bottle of money. This will be used to provide a gift to the new parish. Also, he wants us to restart the 50/50 raffle. Br. Dauphinais volunteered to do take this on.
- **Pork Butt Sale** – Br. Tom Hart indicated that members to sell “pork butts” where they work and play. If enough are sold, the PBs will be delivered for pick up on 11/21 in the parish parking lot.
- **Skate Night** – Br. Tom Hart also said they were planning for a youth skate night sometime in January. Br. Travis Bailey volunteered to be the chaperone.
- **Women's Evening of Reflection** - The Women's evening of reflection will be help on Saturday 11/14/15 after the 5:30 mass. The council will be supporting the evening and all available members are encouraged to show up and help.
- **40 Days for Life** - The 40 days of life proceedings are still going on but are drawing to a close. Br. Jim Kailin will be stepping down as the coordinator. The efforts are showing promise as 6 clinics have recently shut down. The Sparkman clinic is on life support and may close; thus greater efforts are needed. Thanks to Br. Juan Benjamin for his assistance.

- **Volunteer Mass of Appreciation** - The parish will be honoring all the volunteers at a reception on 11/20/15. This will be in the parish hall after the 6:30 mass.
- **Blood Drive** – Br. John Horst was delighted with the past blood drive. Almost a record number of people gave blood.
- **Miller Wedding Reception Support** - The DGK threw out a request for a bartender needed for the Miller wedding reception. Br. John Horst will consult with his daughter who has the necessary qualifications.
- **Huntsville Galaxy of Lights** – Our night is 12/18/15. More information to follow.
- **Basket Ball Free Throw Competition** - Br. Tom McDonald mentioned the “free throw contest” to be held in the gym in January and was looking for a volunteer to head up the event.
- **Knights Night Out** - will be 12/19/15. This will be at the Terra Nova restaurant with a start time of 7:15pm.
- **Deceased Member Plaque** - The plaque has been inscribed with the names of brothers Mike McGee and Dan Mellen.
- **Prayer Team** – Br. Joe McCarty needed people for his prayer teams. Some members came up and filled out his roster.

Financial Reporting

- Br. Tom McDonald gave the treasures report.
- Br. Ron Belz gave the financial secretary's' report. There were no issues with either report.

New Business – None

DD Report – None

Faithful Navigator Report

- **May 4th Degree Exemplification** - In May of 2016, there will be a ceremony to elevate those interested to the 4th degree thus cementing your journey to full knighthood. Literature was passed out to the members.

50/50 Raffle – Br. Mike Dauphinais

Closing Prayer - The GK went around the room for prayer petitions - meeting was closed with prayers to the Holy Mother.

Adjournment: 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Mike Dauphinais, Recorder

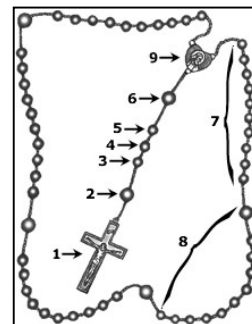
Devine Mercy Chaplet

1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!



3. Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

**St. John the Baptist Council No. 10232
2015 - 2016 Fraternal Year Officers**

Grand Knight	Danny Garcia
Chaplain	Rev. Phil O'Kennedy
DGK	Joseph McCarty
Fin. Sec.	Ron Belz
Chancellor	Tom Quartarone
Warden	Pat Haas
Recorder	Mike Dauphinais
Treasurer	Tom O'Donnell
Advocate	Dan Frische
Lecturer	Daniel Mellen
Inside Guard	James Cook
Outside Guard	Joey Cook
Trustee – 1st Yr	John Phillip
Trustee – 2nd Yr	Tom Hart
Trustee – 3rd Yr	Kevin Rodriguez

Knights of Columbus Field Agent

Field Agent	Paul Ziak
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**Fr. Patrick J. Murphy Assembly No. 2420
2014 – 2015 Fraternal Year Officers**

Faithful Navigator	Joe McCarty
Faithful Friar	Father Phil O' Kennedy
Faithful Captain	Gary Suckow
Faithful Comptroller	Danny Garcia
Faithful Pilot	Andy Haq
Faithful Purser	John Horch
Faithful Scribe	Tom Quartarone
Faithful Admiral	Greg Stefanovic
Faithful Inner Sentinel	Joey Cook
Faithful Outer Sentinel	James Cook
1st yr Trustee	Jeff Montgomery
2nd yr Trustee	Tom Hart
3rd yr Trustee	Dan Frische

Sir Knight James P. Frank Color Corp of Assembly No. 2420

Commander	Seth Tolson
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