



# Knights Digest



Vol. 59 No. 04

[www.kofc4504.org](http://www.kofc4504.org)

December 2017

## Calendar of Events

December 5th ..... Blessing of the Nativity  
 December 11th ..... Council Meeting  
 December 17th..... Breakfast with Santa  
 December 21st ..... Knights Family Dinner  
 December 25th..... Christmas  
 January 27th ..... Murder Mystery Dinner



## Knights of Columbus Annual Coat & Clothing Drive

Please find it in your heart to donate any used coats, clothing or apparel.

All donated items will go to the St. Joseph Social Service Center, Elizabeth, NJ.

And benefit not only those served by the Elizabeth Coalition Homeless, but those in the surrounding areas as well.

Thank You!  
Alex Costa, PGK  
305-898-1570



The JFK Assembly congratulates SK Brian Reilly, SK Joshua Merida and SK Michael Willemse GK. The newest Sir Knights made their Exemplification on Sunday November 19th at the LaNeve's Restaurant in Haledon.

## Wreaths Across America

2017 marks the 3rd year the JFK Assembly has participated in the nationwide Wreaths Across American campaign. It also marks the first time JFK Assembly is a co-sponsor. Wreaths are placed on veteran's graves at the First Presbyterian Church at 42 Broad Street in Elizabeth. All are Welcome to attend. Sir Knights, family and friends.

## THANK YOU

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to all the PGKs, other brother knights from Council 4504 and other councils, Msgr. Anselm, the dignitaries and my family and friends who celebrated with me at the Past Grand Knight's Dinner held on November 7 at the Council Hall.

I want to extend a special thank you to PGK Tom Hornick, and his wife Anne, for having graced me with their presence. It was a moving moment that I will forever cherish.

My thanks to Council 4504, the Columbian Club and my "Gifty Baby," Columbiettes for making the night a memorable one in all aspects. Thank you for the gifts you presented me and for the beautiful bouquet of flowers given to my wife, Theresa.

This was a very special way to bring to an end my term as Grand Knight of Council 4504 and join the special list of brothers called PGKs. I feel blessed this opportunity was given to me and to all who journeyed along with me; Thank You and God bless every one of you.

Giftus "Gifty Baby" John-PGK



## Knigh Digest

This bulletin is published monthly, by and in the interest of the Knights of Columbus Union Council 4504 and registered as third class matter April 23, 1958, at the Union Post Office, Union, NJ.

**RULES FOR SUBMISSION:** Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the 15th of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submission, with contact information to:

**Tom Dudek**  
**Knigh Digest Editor**  
**549 Robinson Ter.**  
**Union, NJ 07083**

or preferably via email to: [tomdudek@outlook.com](mailto:tomdudek@outlook.com).

You must clearly identify all people in photos submitted and at what council event the photo was taken. Photos with alcoholic beverages will not be considered. Photos may also be submitted via email as hi-resolution image files. Hard copy photos will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## Council Officers

*Chaplain*.....  
*District Deputy*..... Alex Costa, PGK  
*Grand Knight* ..... Michael Willemse  
*Deputy Grand Knight*..... Vacant  
*Chancellor*..... David Wozniak  
*Warden* ..... Eric Hernandez  
*Recorder*..... Luke Sangiamo  
*Treasurer*..... Paul Willemse  
*Fin. Secretary*..... Ed McCormick, PGK  
*Inside Guard*..... Anthony Ibida  
*Outside Guard*..... Josh Merdia  
*Membership Director*..... Greg Chaves  
*Program Director*..... Mike Peter, PGK  
*Advocate*..... Stephen F. Hehl  
*3rd. Yr. Trustee* ..... Giftus John, PGK  
*2nd Yr. Trustee* ..... Greg Henn, PGK  
*1st Yr. Trustee* ..... Mike Peter, PGK  
*4th Degree Faithful*  
*Navigator*..... Len Komar  
*Columbian Club*  
*President* ..... John Bashaw  
*Swim Club President*..... Joe Marateo, PGK  
*Columbiette President*..... Fran Corcione

## Monthly Meetings

1st. Mon. ----- Council Officers  
2nd & 4th Mon. ----- Council Mtgs.  
3rd Mon. ----- Swim Club  
4th Wed.----- 4th Degree Assembly  
4th Thu. ----- Columbian Club

## MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

### Brother Knights of 4504,

November was a bit of a quiet month in comparison to our previous months at the Council, but it wasn't without some hard work. Our food drive had a wonderful and most generous donation by St. Barnabas Hospital. Our Intellectual Disabilities Drive was performed this month, and I would like to thank all the gentlemen who participate in this service. Council 4504 hosted a Formation (2nd) and Knighthood (3rd) Degree on November 8th and November 10th. As the host Grand Knight, I was fortunate to receive the accolades of those members in attendance, but the real recognition goes to all the officers and Brother Knights who assisted in the running of these degrees. Thank you, gentlemen, for your continued support and assistance.

The month of December starts our Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. The Nativity was placed at Town Hall on November 25th and we will oversee our Nativity Blessing on December 5th. This year marks our 60th anniversary as a Council. Sixty years ago, a group of young and driven Brother Knights put their homes on the line, and used them as collateral, in order to fund the creation of our building on Jeanette Ave. Sixty years later; we are the largest council in the State of New Jersey, with over 1,300+ members.

Our Columbian Club will be hosting our annual Breakfast with Santa on December 17th. When I first joined our Council in 2011, this was the first event I chaired, alongside Steve Stochlinski. The joy and happiness I got to see in the children's eyes upon receiving a gift from Santa made all the work worthwhile. I highly encourage all to attend this breakfast.

It goes without saying that December is the month of Christmas and Christ's birth. Please remember the true meaning of this holiday as it is very easy to get swept up in the shopping hustle and bustle. Take a few moments to remember why we celebrate this holiday. I also ask that you consider a small donation to our Council that will go toward annual efforts. Your Christmas donation will go toward our charitable causes such as IDD, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Special Olympics, etc.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Vivat Jesus!  
Michael P. Willemse  
Grand Knight 2017-2018



## Knight's Family Dinners

This month's Knights Family dinner is scheduled for **December 21st**. The dinners will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month except when noted otherwise.

Anyone planning on attending must call Pat Wittek in advance at 908-964-3989.

## Union Council 4504-Anniversary Circle... A celebration of 25 and 50 years married.

Are you celebrating or have you celebrated your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary this year? If you have, or will be, please send your names to the Grand Knight, Mike Willemse with the details. We will present Certificates of Commendation from Supreme to all our brothers and their wives who have reached one of these milestones.

Also, if you have celebrated anniversaries in increments of 5 years-30, 35, 40, 45 etc, please let us know. We will also present certificates to all brothers who have also reached one of those milestones.

Hoping to hear from you. Congratulations!!!



I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to all brothers, friends and families who responded to my plea for assistance for my fellow Dominicans following the passage of Hurricane Maria and its devastating effects on our island home. To all who contributed in one way or the other-money, foodstuff, clothes and other necessities and to brother Mike Eger and the officers and general membership of Council 4504, Thank You for the monetary contribution and support.

On behalf of all my fellow Dominicans, I say Thank You once again and God's richest blessings and guidance. I am indeed humbled to be able to represent my country and assist in its recovery and development as a brother knight.

Giftus John- PGK

## Knight of the Month



**December 2017**

**Leonard Komar**



According to his son Leonard Raymond, Leonard Joseph Komar is a very charitable man whose character and integrity are just two traits that define him. Upon meeting Leonard J Komar one will realize a couple distinctions between him and everyone else; the first being

his selflessness and the second, his passion.

Len's son says that his Dad loves to see achievement in progress, even if it's not his own success. He'll do anything he can to make someone else's dream become a reality and he takes a lot of pride in seeing people happy.

We here at Council 4504 can testify to these words as we have seen Len volunteer and participate in a wide range of activities at the Council, and most recently in becoming the Faithful Navigator of our 4th degree assembly JFK #666. He is not a person who is noticed because of his mouth, but because of his actions which he does without any fanfare. In his personal time Len volunteers at multiple non-profit organizations such as the Army Ground Forces Association. In each one he applies his passion and skills to make the impossible a reality. He always throws everything he has into his work even if it means doing late night research on a work night, taking vacation days, and driving long distances. Len devotes his time and efforts just to make sure their events work out as expected.

We at Union 4504, are proud and honored to have a brother of such caliber in our midst exemplary, respectful, self-motivated and unselfish and therefore, we have the utmost pleasure in acknowledging Leonard Joseph Komar, as Knight of the Month, December 2017.

Congratulations Len well deserved!

# ARE YOU COMING?



## Rates are:

3 Nights: \$520 *includes hospitality room*

2 Nights: \$395 *includes hospitality room*

**Upgrades** to 3 room-suites *additional \$35.00 per night.*

**Upgrades** to penthouse suites *additional \$50.00 per night.*

**We require a deposit of \$325.00, if spending 3 nights, and \$250.00, if spending 2 nights, not later than Friday, February 26th to ensure we have the rooms reserved.**

**Note:** If any room is cancelled after April 11th, the deposit won't be returned.

If you are coming, or interested in coming, please register with

Luke Sangiamo at (908) 370-7525.

## Council 4504 Makes Donation

On Monday 27th, November, prior to the council meeting, Council 4504 made a presentation of \$1800.00 to the relief efforts for the island of Dominica. Dominica is one of the many islands in the Caribbean that was greatly affected by the passage of Hurricane Maria earlier this year. Accepting the donation on behalf of the government and people of Dominica was Sheldon Peter, Consular Officer at the Dominica Consulate in New York.

Mr. Peter thanked the council for its efforts and informed those present of what is being undertaken to assist in getting Dominica back to normalcy. He said that every penny helps in the recovery process and that the donation by the council will assist in the recovery.

Past Grand Knight, Giftus John, is from Dominica.





# Past Grand Knight's Dinner

Honoring Giftus John





**BREAKFAST**

*with*

**SANTA**

---

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER**

---

**17**

---

**10:30 AM  
12:30 PM**

---

**Columbian Club of Union**  
1034 Jeanette Avenue



# **Murder Mystery Dinner**

**January 27th 2017 at 7:00pm**

Knights of Columbus  
1034 Jeanette Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083

\$30 per person  
\$55 per couple

**RSVP by January 15th to Luke  
Sangiomo at (908) 370 - 7525.**

**Knights of Columbus**  
**COUNCIL 4504**  
 1034 Jeanette Avenue  
 Union, NJ 07083



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 UNION, N.J.  
 PERMIT NO. 37

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Council Officers	5 Blessing of the Nativity	6	7	8	9
10	11 Council Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17 Breakfast with Santa	18 Swim Club Meeting	19	20	21 Knights Family Dinner - 6:30pm	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 4th Degree Assembly	28 Columbian Club	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	January 27, 2018 - Murder Mystery Dinner					