



The Knights kick of 2019 with heartfelt thanks for all of the support we have received during the past year from the St. Mary parish community. Aided by your assistance during 2018 we:

- Welcomed 6 new Knight to the order. Congratulations to **Pete Bonfiglio**, **Tom Savoca**, **Brian Mac Donnell**, **Bill Dunn**, **Mike Shehl** and **Al Britto**. Special thanks to all who supported our recruitment drives at the Parish Fair & our insurance dinner at The Village Tavern (thanks Joe Chelednik)
- Held our parish Free Throw contest in January and hosted the district completion in February. Special thanks to **Brother Knight Tim O'Connell** for his outstanding work running this event
- Organized and graded the annual K of C essay contest for 8th grade students at St. Mary. This years' winners were **Patrick Backus** who wrote about the life of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and **Paige Kozlicky** who wrote about the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton. Paige advancing to the state final taking home 4th prize! A special thanks to **Brother Knight John Fisher** who has run this program for the past seven years.
- Launched a new initiative designed to aid the plight of Christian Communities in the Middle East. We would like to thank our Brother Knights, **The Men's Ministry** and all of St. Mary's Parish for your efforts on behalf of this effort. Your generosity **raised over \$1,000** which was donated through the Knight of Columbus to aid dioceses & agencies working in the region.

Further, on March 26th we had a strong showing as the Knights and **St. Mary's Rosary Society** prayed the Rosary to join our prayer to the suffering of all holy men, women and children of all faiths in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

- Kicked off our new "Knight Talk" series with **Jim Curnal's** (March) tales of life as a minor leaguer in spring training with the late 1970's New York Yankees. Jim was followed by **Brenner LeCompte** (June), who gave us all valuable insights into today's youth, and **Don McGran** (December), who gave an eye-opening look into the scams, traps and how to protect yourself from fraud in the cyber world. The Knights would like to thank these individuals for their time and insights, and **Deputy Grand Knight Brian Patrick Martin** for organizing the series.
- We continued a long-standing tradition of soliciting, packaging and delivering food boxes to those in need at Ballard Green and Congregate care. Special thanks to **Brother Knight Aaron Tappan** for running this event, as well as the young volunteers who helped us in the packaging and made personalized greeting cards, all of the other parish organizations who aided in food collection and the many parishioners who made financial donations.
- Honored our deceased brothers and service members on Memorial Day by decorating the graves of Knights buried at St. Mary Cemetery. Special thanks to **Brother Knight Andy Deem**, also our financial secretary, who organized this event.

We were also honored to host **St. Mary's LifeTeen Ministry** on a custom parade float in the Memorial Day Parade. Special Thanks goes out **Brother Knights Steve Masi & Aaron Tappan** for helping organize the joint-venture with **Brenner LeCompte** and his crew.

- Installed & dedicated an American Flag at St. May cemetery under the guidance & collaboration of the **American Legion Post 78**.
- Raised **over \$3,000** in September, through the generosity of this Parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton and the entire Ridgefield community, to help support Special Olympics, Sunrise Cottage and St. Catherine's Academy. Special thanks to **Deputy Grand Knight Brian Patrick Martin** and **Brother Knight Jack Laber** who organized the event, as well as **Stop and Shop** and **Steve's Bagels** who were fantastic local partners.
- Supported the St. Mary fair in September and worked with **Project Beloved** to raise \$5,000 on behalf of their woman's health initiative in Norwalk. Special thanks to Brother Knight Hank VossWinkel for introducing us to Project Beloved, whom we seek to do more with in 2019
- Lead a public saying of the Rosary at the Gazebo in Ballard Park on the 101st anniversary of the last apparition of the Virgin Mary to Lúcia Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto at Fatima, the Knights A great thanks to the parishioners who joined the Knights in this exercise of religious liberty.
- Worked with LifeTeen Ministry to help a neighbor in need clean their yard for the first time in many years. Special thanks to **Grand Knight Phil Del Giudice** for coordinating with the host family and **Brenner LeCompte**.
- Handed out hot chocolate on Main Street during the Ridgefield Holiday Stroll. Donations were collected for Connecticut Family and Children's Aid. Through the generosity of the town and the parishioners of St. Mary and St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton, **\$200.00** was donated to this worth cause. A special thanks to **Brother Knight Ken Trischitta** who organized the event, **Patty Labozzo** at Family and Children's Aid and **Willett Property Management**.
- Hosted our annual Breakfast with Santa, which is fast becoming a St. Mary staple. **Brother Knight Mark Hance** did an excellent job organizing the event. Also, the Knights were again responsible for installing the Crèche at the rectory.
- We ended the year honoring the **Feast of the Holy Family** and passing out prayer cards after masses. We humbly ask each family to consider reciting this prayer as we consecrate our families to our Holy Family in Heaven.
- Monetary donations were shared with our long-standing charity partners; Dorothy Day Hospitably House, Malta House, the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and Immaculate High School

We thank all of our Knights & ask for your prayers & support as we continue our works in 2019

To join us or learn more see KofC.org/joinus or reach us directly at {Compass_grp@yahoo.com}