



# The Blue Mantle



**Knights Of Columbus**  
Mater Dei Council #9774  
[www.geocities.com/materdei9774](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

**December 2007**  
**Jesus, the incarnate love of God**

**Knights of Columbus**  
**Mater Dei Council**  
**#9774**

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## Knights News:

“The time has come to ensure, for the sake of peace, that no man, woman or child will ever be hungry again. All forms of discrimination, and particularly those that thwart agricultural development, must be rejected since they constitute a violation of the basic right of every person to be 'free from hunger.' [...] Today more than ever, the human family needs to find the tools and strategies capable of overcoming the conflicts caused by social differences, ethnic rivalries, and the gross disparity in levels of economic development. [...] Peace, prosperity, and respect for human rights are inseparably linked.”

Pope Benedict XVI  
November 22, 2007

## GK's Report

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to Mo Bryce, Mike Herman, Gary Coulter, and Federico Soluguren for taking the next step towards knighthood by taking the Second Degree. I encourage all brothers who are eligible to follow their example. The degrees of the Order are designed to help each of us to fully realize the spiritual benefits of membership. Mater Dei Council will host a Second Degree on February 7 and Rock

Creek Council will have a Third Degree on February 8. Take advantage of these opportunities to learn and grow.

December will be another busy month for our Council. We kick-off the month with our annual participation in St. Raphael Parish's Breakfast with Santa on December 1. Don Titzman will be leading a crew of chefs and kitchen help. On December 8, we will hold our Council Christmas Dinner and Party in the Trumpet Room starting at 6 pm. On December 9 we will be doing coffee and donuts

after masses in the Trumpet Room. Needless to say we will also be doing a membership drive at the same time. On December 11 in the DCC we will be conducting 2 evening events. The first is an Open House for new members and the second is a “Keep Christ in Christmas” Family Movie Night, featuring the fine film “The Nativity Story.” On December 13, in place of our usual business meeting we will hold a First Degree. If you know someone who (Continued on page 2)

## Union of the soul with God

When the soul is devoted to the Lord, and the Lord in mercy and love comes to her and is united with her, and when her intention thereafter remains continually in the grace of the Lord, then **the soul and the Lord become one spirit, one unity, and one mind;** and though her body is prostrate on the earth, her mind lives wholly in the heavenly Jerusalem...

In heart and mind, sinners

living in darkness can be far from the body, can live at a great distance from it; they can travel in a moment of time to remote lands, so that often, while the body lies stretched out upon the earth, the mind is in another country with its beloved, and sees itself as living there. If then the soul of a sinner is so light and swift that his mind speeds without hindrance to far-away places, how much easier it must be for the

soul from whom the veil of darkness has been lifted by the power of the Holy Spirit, whose mental eyes have been illuminated by heavenly light, who has been completely delivered from shameful passions and made pure by grace, to be at once wholly in heaven serving the Lord in Spirit, and wholly in the body serving him. The mental faculty of such a soul is so greatly expanded that (Continued on page 2)

would like to join, please inform one of the officers so that we can process them in. Finally, after all our hard work both for the Council and in preparing for the holidays, I invite all the members to attend our Poker (Bridge also) Night on December 27 in the DCC.

As we head into this blessed season of the year I would like to extend to each of one of you my wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Bill Shaffer, Grand Knight

## KofC Degrees and assistance

The four degrees of the KofC are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Upon reaching the Third Degree, a gentleman is considered a full member.

Charity is the foremost principle of the KofC. In the 2005 fraternal year the Order gave \$136 million directly to charity and performed over 63.2 million man hours in voluntary service. Endowed funds of over \$54 million support a number of Church related causes. A Knight's highest duty is to assist the widow or orphan of a fallen brother Knight.

The Maryland State Council has an

employment assistance programs chaired by Steve Cohen, PGK-FDD-PCP. Its objectives are:

- ♦ To assist in finding work for brother knights that are out of work..
- ♦ To prepare a listing of brother knights who can do certain types of work for brother knights.
- ♦ To provide assistance in obtaining information concerning Cobra and other benefits to out of work brother knights.

If you know any brother knight in need of finding employment or are aware of an existing open position, please contact Steve at 410-377-7227 or [cohensmc42@aol.com](mailto:cohensmc42@aol.com).

she is present everywhere, and can serve Christ wherever and whenever she wishes.

Truly, the soul is a great and wonderful divine work. God created her according to the image of the virtues of the Spirit, without any evil in her nature. He placed in her the laws of the virtues, discernment, knowledge, understanding, faith, love, and the rest of the virtues, according to the image of the Spirit. Even now the Lord is found and revealed to the soul in knowledge, understanding, love, and faith; he has placed in her intelligence, imagination, will, and reason to rule them. He has given her the ability to come and go in a moment, and to serve him in thought wherever the Spirit wills. In a word, he created her as one who was to become his bride and companion, so that he might be united with her and she might be one spirit with him.

*Saint Macarius († fourth or fifth century) probably came to the south of Asia Minor from Mesopotamia and was the abbot of a community of cenobites.*

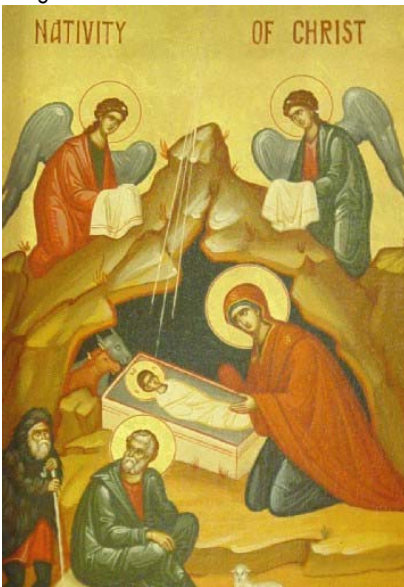
## Union with God and Eucharist

All love demands union; the more ardent the love the more complete the union it seeks. The love of our Lord for us is no exception. As Saint John Chrysostom (347 – 407) tells us, **our Lord instituted the Blessed Eucharist so that we might become one entity with himself**, united to him as the head is united to the body, as food is united to one that consumes it, "for this is the desire of the ardent lovers." We spoke in the last chapter of the Church as the bride of Christ. Saint Paul cites the marriage union as a symbol and shadow of the still more intimate union of Christ with his Church: they shall be two in one flesh; and Saint John tells us of the repeated prayer for union that our Lord uttered at the Last Supper when he instituted the Sacrament of the Blessed Eucharist, which very sacrament is his means of effecting that union...

In this sacrament, then, under the appearance of bread, our Lord and Savior gives us his Flesh and Blood, for the food of our souls. It was not enough for him that he should become one of us by adopting a human nature like our own. It was not enough that he should share the hardships of a life like our own - that he should suffer and die and atone for our sins in our name. He loved us, and he would not rest until he should be completely united to us. And in his love he devised this most extraordinary method of union in which he himself becomes our food! Truly a tremendous lover!

*Dom M. Eugene Boylan, O.C.S.O. († 1963) was a monk of the Cistercian Abbey of Mount Saint Joseph, Roscrea, Ireland.*

*Excerpted from "This tremendous lover". This great book explains how all Christians are interrelated to one another in the body of Christ and shows the way to a deeper union with Christ.*



## Annual Christmas Dinner, Saturday December 8

Mark your calendars. It's time to start planning for Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Dinner December 8, @ 6:00 PM in the St. Raphael Trumpet Room. Cost this year will be \$10 per person and \$25 per family.

You are invited and encouraged to bring a neighbor or friend as guest of the Grand Knight. They will not pay a fee. We'd like to use this event

as a recruiting event.

Some of you enjoyed the culinary treats of Don Titzman at our KofC end-of-summer picnic. You will have this opportunity again as Don T & Dick J will be manning the kitchen.

Keep in mind that we use this event for our annual Seminarian collection. If you can't make this event

plan to send your contribution and support to KofC Mater Dei Charities, John Frey, Financial Secretary (use the address posted on this Blue Mantle).

Reservations for this event may be made by calling Bob McCaffrey 301-251-5225.

## Insurance Report

This Christmas, give your family a gift that they will cherish. It is a gift that shows that you truly love your family. Life Insurance. When you purchase life insurance it is not just for yourself. It is for your entire family. Life insurance does two things. Firstly, it can provide for you and your wife with an income during your retirement years. It enables you to live and not worry about money. You may go and do what you want. Secondly, it does protect your loved ones if you were to die prematurely. It gives your family financial protection, so that they may live with dignity, in your absence. It can be nearly impossible for a family to live without life insurance, when the breadwinner dies.

Be a real Saint Nick and get the life insurance you and your loved ones need .... today!

F r a t e r n a l l y ,  
**Rick Morin**, FICF/LUTCF  
 Your K of C Insurance Agent  
 (301) 384 7627

## Jesus-Christ, the incarnate love of God

As Saint Paul says, "*Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread*" (1 Cor 10:17). Union with Christ is also union with all those to whom he gives himself. I cannot possess Christ just for myself; I can belong to him only in union with all those who have become, or who will become, his own. Communion draws me out of myself towards him, and thus also towards unity with all Christians. **We become "one body", completely joined in a single existence.** Love of God and love of neighbour are now truly united: God incarnate draws us all to himself. We can thus understand how *agape* also became a term for the Eucharist: there God's own *agape* comes to us bodily, in order to continue his work in us and through us. Only by keeping in mind this Christological and sacramental basis can we correctly understand Jesus' teaching on love. The transition which he makes from the Law and the Prophets to the twofold commandment of love of God and of neighbour, and his grounding the

whole life of faith on this central precept, is not simply a matter of morality—something that could exist apart from and alongside faith in Christ and its sacramental reactualization. Faith, worship and *ethos* are interwoven as a single reality which takes shape in our encounter with God's *agape*. Here the usual contraposition between worship and ethics simply falls apart. "Worship" itself, Eucharistic communion, includes the reality both of being loved and of loving others in turn. A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented. Conversely, as we shall have to consider in greater detail below, the "commandment" of love is only possible because it is more than a requirement. Love can be "commanded" because it has first been given."

**Pope Benedict XVI**  
 Deus Caritas Est

Editor: The pope's second encyclical is due out on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There is no word on when the English translation will be available.

## Editorial: Christ is our Life, Heaven is our Country. Camille Ng

### New Life in Christ

At baptism, we become Christians; we become a new creation in Christ. As Saint Paul puts it, *“if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come”* (2 Co 5:17).

We are given God’s grace. “Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ’s grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle” (CCC #405).

We are born of the Spirit. *“Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (Jn 3:5-6).

We are given the Holy Spirit who enables us to *“become partakers of the divine nature”* (2 Pe 1:4). “This sharing in God’s own life is both the beginning and final goal of Christian life” (Navarre Bible Commentary).

### Life in Christ

Being new creatures in Christ is a life-changing experience. We are given supernatural life (also called “sanctifying grace” by theologians) which means a new life as a result of our union with God, from the sharing by God of His own nature.

The Blessed Trinity dwells in our soul. *“In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you”* (Jn 14:20). *“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”* (1 Co 3:16) *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own”* (1 Co 6:19).

We are no longer our own, but God’s temple. In the words of Saint Paul, we *“put on Christ”* (cf. Ro 13:14; *“For as*

*many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”* Ga 3:27). According to St Thomas Aquinas, it is the character of baptism that “configures” us to Christ and make us participants in his eternal priesthood.

By living our Christian vocation, we can echo Saint Paul words: *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me”* (Ga 2:20). [Our] *“soul draw its life from Christ’s action... It is [Christ] who lives in me and makes me act.”* (St Thomas, *Commentary on Ga*).

*“For through him [Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* (Eph 2:18-22).

***“Marvel and rejoice:  
we have become Christ!”  
— Saint Augustine***

### Living in Christ

Christ’s whole life was in obedience to the Father, *“not as I will, but as thou wilt”* (Mt 26:39) and of submission to the Holy Spirit: *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness”* (Mt 4:1). As followers as Christ, our life should be the constant prayer he taught us: *“Thy Will be done”* (Mt 6:10), a constant obedience to the will of God.

The treasure we seek is not of this earth, but *“a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys”* (Lu 12:33).

Our treasure is the kingdom of heaven. *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and*

*sells all that he has and buys that field”* (Mt 13:44).

Our soul is raised to God through the Holy Spirit. Our hearts and mind should also be set on the kingdom of heaven: *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth”* (Col 3:1-2).

### We are One with Christ

We are all connected; Einstein wisely remarked: *“The illusion that we are separate from one another is an optical delusion of our consciousness.”*

The connection between Christ and his Church is even greater. We are not only connected to Christ but **one spiritual body with Christ**.

The catechism teaches us (CCC #795): “Christ and his Church thus together make up the “whole Christ” (Christus Totus). The Church is one with Christ. The saints are acutely aware of this unity:”

♦ *“Let us rejoice then and give thanks that we have become not only Christians, but Christ himself. Do you understand and grasp, brethren, God’s grace toward us? Marvel and rejoice: we have become Christ. For if he is the head, we are the members; he and we together are the whole man...”* (St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo 354 -430)

♦ *“Our redeemer has shown himself to be one person with the Holy Church whom he has taken to himself.”* (Pope St Gregory the Great)

♦ A reply of St Joan of Arc to her judges sums up the faith of the holy doctors and the good sense of the believer: *“About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they’re just one thing, and we shouldn’t complicate the matter.”* (Acts of the trials of Joan of Arc, 1412-1431)

### Deification of man (CCC #460)

From the beginning of the Church, the

Early Fathers taught us the meaning of our existence and the vocation of man: God created us to be in eternal communion with Him. The finality (and destiny) of man is God Himself.

- ♦ The word became flesh to make us “*partakers of the divine nature*” (2 Pet 1:4)
- ♦ “*For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God.*” (St. Irenaeus, 130-208, *Adversus haereses*)
- ♦ “*For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.*” (St. Athanasius, 296-373, *De Decretis*)
- ♦ “*The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods.*” (St. Thomas Aquinas)

The early Church father called this assimilation to God *theōsis* (deification, becoming God). In this existence, we already taste of this union with God through the Church which is the spiritual body of Christ. This union can be perfected in this life and is perfect in heaven.

#### **Christian perfection = union with God through charity**

“From Revelation we learn that the ultimate end of man is supernatural, consisting in union with God here on earth by grace and hereafter in heaven by the beatific vision. Perfect union with God cannot be attained in this life, so man is imperfect in that he lacks the happiness for which he is destined and suffers many evils both of body and soul. Perfection therefore in its absolute sense is reserved for the kingdom of heaven.

Christian perfection is the supernatural or spiritual union with God which is possible of attainment in this life, and which may be called relative perfection [...] This perfection consists in charity, in the degree in which it is

attainable in this life (Mat 22:36-40); Rom 13:10; Ga 5:14; 1 Co 12:31, 13:13). This is the universal teaching of the Fathers and of theologians. Charity unites the soul with God as its supernatural end, and removes from the soul all that is opposed to that union. “*God is charity; and he that abideth in charity abideth in God, and God in him*” (1 Jn 4:16)” (New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia).

The union with Christ crucified makes us perfect in the eyes of God. “*Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect, but rather the intimate union of the soul with God*” (St Faustina).

**“For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.” — St. Athanasius**

#### **Heaven is our true country; God is our life, our way and our goal**

“*If you enroll as one of God's people, heaven is your country and God your lawgiver. And what are God's laws? You shall not kill, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. To him that strikes you on the one cheek, turn to him the other also.*” (Clement of Alexandria, an early church father)

We are like sojourners on earth, and Heaven is our true country for which we long and for which we belong. We “*desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one*” (Heb 11:16). We “*look [ed] forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God*” (Heb 11:10).

C.S. Lewis wrote, “*I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same.*”

This life on earth will pass, we need to keep our eye on the final prize (cf. 1

Co 9:24), which is eternal life with God in heaven. That is what matters most for us as spiritual beings.

Saint Paul tells us: “*one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” (Phil 3:13-14).

“*For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*” (2 Co 5:1).

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-21: “*Lay not up to yourselves treasures on earth: where the rust, and moth consume, and where thieves break through, and steal. But lay up to yourselves treasures in heaven: where neither the rust nor moth doth consume, and where thieves do not break through, nor steal. For where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also.*”

#### **God is our home, Christ is our Omega**

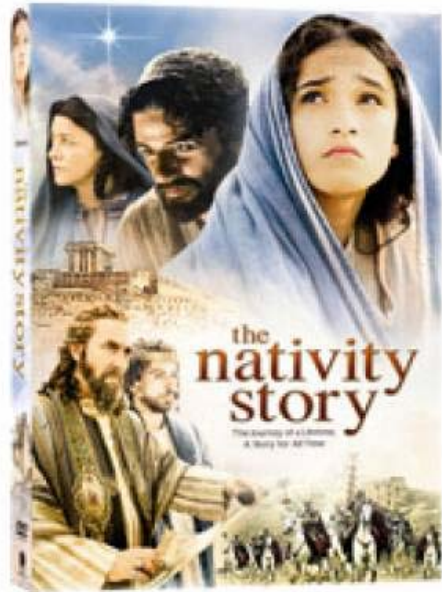
“*God is our home but many of us have strayed from our native land. [...] May we follow their [the spiritual authors and directors] direction home*” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu).

Saint Catherine de Sienna, stigmatist and papal counselor, observed: In this life, “*we find no pleasure except in Christ; we neither value nor want to know anything but Christ crucified. [...] Up then! Since this holy cross is so sweet that it relieves all bitterness, pick it up for your journey along this road. For we are pilgrim travelers need this holy wood for support until we have reached our destination, where our soul is at rest in our final home.*”

As the love song goes, Christ is your -- and my -- everything. “*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*” (Phil 4:13). “*Through Christ crucified I will be able to do and endure all things, even to the point of death.*”

“*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.... My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*” (Phil 1:21, 23)

Let us unceasingly set our eyes, our mind, heart and soul on Jesus Christ. Through Him, with Him and in Him, we can celebrate the eternal banquet of love.



### What every parent should know about the "The Golden Compass"

[The movie "The Golden Compass"] "corrupts the imagery of Lewis and Tolkien to undermine children's faith in God and the Church. I don't recommend any parent allow their children to view the film. While the movie has reportedly been sanitized of its more anti-Christian and anti-religious elements, it will do nothing but pique children's curiosity about the books. It's not OK for children -- impressionable as they are -- to read stories in which the plot revolves around the supreme blasphemy, namely, that God is a liar and a mortal. It is not appropriate for children to read books in which the heroine is the product of adultery and murder; priests act as professional hit men, torturers and authorize occult experimentation on young children; an ex-nun engages in occult practices and promiscuous behavior, and speaks of it openly with a 12-year-old couple; and the angels who rebel against God are good, while those who fight on God's side are evil. This is wrong."

— Pete Vere

### Keeping Christ in Christ'mas

The Knights of Columbus will be offering a wonderful movie, "The Nativity Story" on Tuesday December 11, in our Parish Duffy Center, Rooms 3 & 5, at 7:30 PM. The movie is well done and presents a visual adaptation of the biblical narratives related to the birth of Christ. The movie is suitable for all ages, provides an excellent instruction tool for our children, and is an opportunity for us to help "Keep Christ in Christmas". Please plan to come as a family, you will find that "The Nativity Story" is well told, entertaining and enjoyable for all.

### Culture of Life: Moratorium on the Death Penalty

On Jan 27, 1999, nearly nine years ago, the late John Paul II, while in the United States, renewed his worldwide appeal to end the death penalty: "I renew the appeal for a consensus to end the death penalty." (1) (2)

On November 18, 2007, the United Nations formally approved a resolution in New York, exhorting all nations to adopt a moratorium on all executions. At this announcement, the Holy See expressed its "support, great joy and great satisfaction."

Msg Celestino Migliore, the permanent observer of the Holy See in the U.N. declared on Vatican Radio: "The resolution is limited in its design; it is not yet the abolition of death penalty, but a moratorium on executions, nevertheless it has a force on its own. It is a declaration of political will, while not yet a restrictive judicial instrument. She offers to the international community an official base for a debate and for initiatives that will able to lead to the definitive abolition of capital punishment."

Cardinal Martino, the president of the Pontifical Council on Peace and Justice, dubbed it a "significant step" towards the end of death penalty.

He said: "I am elated. I was the representative of the Holy See in the United Nations for more than 16 years and during this time, I have assisted to two attempts to pass this moratorium in the 90's. I worked a lot towards it and I was very disappointed when these projects of resolution were withdrawn for lack of enough votes. This time, we have enough votes, and I am very happy. It is a significant step, although unfortunately, it is only a moratorium and the decision of the UN and the General Assembly has only an appeal value. It is not a convention to which the nations have to adhere to, so the decision of the General Assembly is a hope of good omen. Whatever it is, it is already very important and we can see with great satisfaction the great number of Catholic organizations that are working towards this goal. It is good that they can rejoice from their work." — C. Ng, Family Program

(1) Since 1998, the Holy See has taken a very clear stance against capital punishment in the world.

(2) The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have been calling for an end to the use of death penalty for more than 27 years (since 1980) and launched a new campaign in March of 2005 to end the use of death penalty in the USA. (Check the bishops' web site at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)).

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Knights of Columbus  
Mater Dei Council #9774



## Special Notices

- All articles for the December issue must be received by the Editor by Friday Dec 21<sup>st</sup>.

"If [God] has eternally willed to call man to share in the divine nature (cf. 2 Pet 1:4), it can be said that he has matched the 'divinization' of man to humanity's historical conditions, so that even after sin he is ready to restore at a great price the eternal plan of his love through the 'humanization' of his Son, who is of the same being as himself. The whole of creation, and more directly man himself, cannot fail to be amazed at this gift in which he has become a sharer, in the Holy Spirit: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16)".

— John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*

## Schedule of Events: December '07 - January '08

- Sat Dec 1 Breakfast with Santa, 9am-12  
Sat Dec 1 Lunch with Santa, 12:30-2pm  
Tue Dec 4 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC  
**Sat Dec 8 Immaculate Conception (Obl.)**  
Council Christmas Party, 6-10pm  
Sun Dec 9 Coffee & Donuts, 8am-1pm  
Tue Dec 11 Open House, 7:30pm, DCC  
Movie: "Nativity Story"  
Thu Dec 13 1st Degree, 7:30-10pm, DCC  
**Tue Dec 25 Christmas (Obligation)**  
Thu Dec 27 Social (cards), 7:30-10:30pm  
Thu Jan 3 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC  
Thu Jan 10 Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC  
Thu Jan 24 Social (speaker), 8pm, DCC



Immaculate Conception

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