



# The Carpenter

Fr. Edward Fitzgerald Council No. 12772  
670 West Main Street  
Plain City, Ohio 43064  
[www.kofccouncil12772.org](http://www.kofccouncil12772.org)



## December 2011 *Family of the Month: Ed Stransky Family—see Page 5*

### Grand Knight's notes ...

Dear Brother Knights,



What a fast six months have passed in this Fraternal year. It is time to step back and take time to enjoy the Holidays with family and friends.

I would again like to thank you for the great support of our Council over the past six months.

In a time when all things religious are being discouraged and swept away, it's refreshing to know that the Order sponsors the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ.

Keeping Christ in Christmas is keeping the very heart and meaning of the Christmas celebration alive. To celebrate the birth of the Son of God, the Supreme Council offers the following suggestions you can use to help in keeping Christ in Christmas:

- Serve or prepare meals at a soup kitchen.
- Bring presents to children or elderly people in the hospital.
- Clean, repair and refurbish a church in a poor neighborhood.
- Visit someone who's shut-in.
- Send a Christmas card to someone you have not seen or talked to in years.
- Invite a friend or neighbor who will be alone to share your Christmas celebration.
- Reconcile with a friend or relative with whom you have quarreled. Apologize if you were wrong.

**See Grand Knight's Notes, Page 2**

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### Pancakes with St. Nick, Dec 10

Council 12772 will hold another all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, December 10 at the PAC. St. Nick will be present for photographs, \$2.00 each.

Prices will be the same: 0-3 yrs free, 4-12 \$ 4, and over 12 \$6; families with more than 2 kids pay a \$20 maximum (new!)

Bring your kids for cakes, sausage and fun!

### Christmas Social to follow December meeting—all Brothers welcome

We will have a pizza/snack potluck Christmas party immediately following our December 14 business meeting. You Brothers who don't normally come to our meetings—please join us for food and fellowship and to see how your award-winning Council functions.

### Time to take control of your life insurance program



A statistic I find frightening is this: about 50% of households in the United States and Canada have no individually-owned life insurance. If you aren't among the 50%, maybe I can enlist your help in your council as a spokesman for the value of life insurance.

Note that I said “ individually-owned life insurance.” While the number for those with absolutely no life insurance is just as, if not more, frightening, the 50% does not include those who have some form of group life insurance, usually provided by their employer.

**See Take control, Page 5**

### The Carpenter

St. Joseph Parish  
Fr. Edward Fitzgerald Council No. 12772  
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## November Business Meeting notes

### Grand Knight's Report:

- Introduced new member Dominic Miller.
- Emphasized the need for new recruits. Will make announcements at all masses next week in advance of Book-Signing Social: 4:30 Corbitt, 8:30 Santini, 10:30 Butler.
- Distributed newly-available by-laws.
- Thanks to Thobe, Santini and Hess for VA Med Center party participation.
- Plans for two Christmas baskets to needy families in December.

### Discussion on 11/12 Pancake Breakfast:

- Set-up at 7pm Friday, on station 7am Saturday.
- Dec 10 event will depend on results of this one.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Noted current account balances in both Heartland and Richland banks; accounts to be consolidated at Richland.
- Reimbursements for expenses were approved as follows: \$108 for new checks; \$29 for pizzas.

### Financial Secretary's Report:

- Bills for 2012 dues going in the mail.
- FS noted that no reporting form for Matching Funds could be found.

### Program Director Report:

- VA Med Center activity reported and approved.
- 750 points accumulated to date.

### Old and New Business:

- Nothing to report

### Report of 4th Degree:

- Brother Lord summarized various 4th Degree activities

### Field Agent Report

- Presented Membership Quota Award plaque to Jim Butler, Membership Chairman, for meeting quota last year.

- Free-Throw contest tentatively schedule for 1/7/12 at JAHS; planning to offer cash prize to Athletic Assn bringing most participants.

### Good of the Order:

Mary Ann Peiffer, Ed Chuha, Slota Family, Sharon Dues, Arlie Ferguson, J. B. Rayburn, John Mastin, Carol McNeely, Tom Magal, Charles Veely.

### Grand Knight's Notes, from Page 1

- Provide transportation to shelters for homeless people.
- Wish people you meet a good day and a happy and holy Christmas.
- Get the family together to clean out all the closets and dressers. Donate usable clothing, shoes, blankets and other items to a program for needy families.
- Send care packages to military personnel stationed overseas.
- Sing Christmas carols at nursing homes or hospitals.
- Collect baby clothes, blankets, food, diapers or money and donate these items to an organization that helps needy people.
- Supply car seats or cradles to underprivileged mothers.
- Sponsor a drive for children to donate their old toys to youngsters.

Be a part of the holiday spirit by undertaking one or more of the items listed above and help make Christmas merry for someone else and yourself.

I wish you all a Holy Christmas and a Wonderful and healthy New Year.

Vivat Jesus,  
Jeff Fisher, Grand Knight

## December Birthdays/Anniversaries

Knights		Children	
Edward Ehlen	12/6	Andrew Corbitt	12/1
Phillip Lashley	12/8	Jeremiah Peck	12/14
Mark Mandel	12/9	Maggie Schurman	12/16
Michael Brickner	12/12	Elisabeth Powers	12/19
David Seciliot	12/14		
Bob Hess	12/27	Wedding Anniversaries	
Stewart Wenerstrom	12/28	Mike and Lois Thiergartner	12/3
Jon Santini	12/31	David & Sandy Klinker	12/5
<b>Spouses—None on record</b>			

## December Dates to Remember

Dec 8	Immaculate Conception 7:00pm Mass—Church	Dec 25	Midnight Mass 10:00am Mass—K of C Rosary
Dec 10	8:00am Pancake Breakfast—PAC	<b>Dec 28 No Officers' Meeting</b>	
Dec 14	8:00pm K of C Business Meeting—Church	<b>Jan 1 New Year's Day</b>	
Dec 24	4:00pm Vigil Mass—PAC 6:00pm Vigil Mass, Children's choir—PAC		

## Notes from the Pastor and his staff ...

### The Real Meaning of Christmas

By Sarah Reinhard



Every year, I have to remind myself that Christmas isn't about the decorations, the gifts, or the stress I associate with it.

Every year, I have to come to terms that Christmas doesn't start until December 25. The season before that is Advent, and it's a time of penitential preparation.

It's also a time of anticipation, one that calls for action.

My knee-jerk reaction to Christmas being on the horizon is akin to a tantrum from my four-year-old. I spout, I scream, I resist.

And then I'm brought full circle, to the realization that what awaits me on Christmas is *THE* Baby. He comes quietly, whether I notice or not. He's tiny and helpless and remarkable.

Will I recognize Him this year? Can I get beyond myself to say yes, as Mary did again and again, to the blessings that Baby offers to me?

*You can read more of Sarah's musings at her blog, [SnoringScholar.com](http://SnoringScholar.com).*

### Fr. Pat chimes in ...



Celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas. Christmas Season begins December 25<sup>th</sup> with the birth of Jesus and ends with the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Let's take an old Advent practice of doing something special for Jesus each day and "putting a straw in the manger", and make it a Christmas practice of "giving a gift on each of the 12 Days of Christmas."

Early in the life of the Church, the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan 6) was the more important feast. It was this day that Jesus was revealed to the world. Don't lose the full meaning of Christmas by only making it a one day event. Be wise men and present your families to the Lord by making them "Holy Families."

***May you be in Heaven a long time  
before the Devil knows you're dead!***

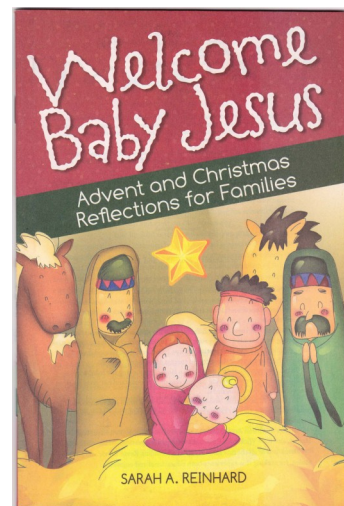
## Council assists with Sarah Reinhard's book signing event

St. Joseph Parish's own Sarah Reinhard, wife of Brother Bob Reinhard and well-known in the Central Ohio area for her prolific inspirational writings, has had her *Welcome Baby Jesus* Advent and Christmas book published by Liguori Publications.

Our K of C Council purchased 200 copies of Sarah's book and donated them to the Parish. On Sunday, November 20, after 10:30am mass, Sarah presided over a Book-Signing Social where she personally signed copies of her book for Parish families. The Social included various snacks and beverages organized by Knights' wives Gloria Butler and Bonnie Chuha.

Council Knights helped to set up for the event and also used the occasion to promote membership to several prospects.

Sarah's book is also available at Amazon.com, where you can read glowing reviews of her book written by other authors of children's books.



Author Sarah pauses from her signings to flash her typical smile for the camera.



Mothers and fans line up to receive their signed copy of *Welcome Baby Jesus*.



Book signing attendees enjoyed a great spread of sweets and fruits to go with their beverages.



Children were in abundance at the signing event, a usual occurrence when sweets are available.

### **Take control, from Page 1**

This group life issue, which our agents see and discuss every day, is an interesting security blanket. Most times, the amount offered is far from what you need, and the only way to determine what you need is with a comprehensive needs analysis.

Your company's human resources or benefits department doesn't do needs analysis. Instead, they apply a formula: you make X amount in salary and the group life is either a flat amount (\$15,000 seems popular) or a multiple of your salary (somewhere between 1.5 and 2.5 seems popular).

Either way, it has nothing to do with the number of children you have, the mortgage balance you carry, or the amount of money your wife would need if you die. It's a completely random number.

It can also disappear at any time. All of us know people – friends, family members, neighbors – who have lost their jobs. When the job is lost, so is the group life insurance coverage. If the company experiences difficulty and budgets need to be cut, group life can be reduced or eliminated. And that decision could be made at the worst possible time for you.

Most group life insurance coverage reduces or disappears when you retire. Many times it can be converted, but at a very expensive premium (remember, you're no kid anymore when you retire, and premiums do rise as you get older). Just because you turn 65 doesn't mean you no longer need life insurance or need less coverage. Actually, the opposite is true.

Group life insurance is a great benefit and certainly does help, but it must be supplemented with a personally owned portfolio. We can tell you exactly how to blend your group benefit with your K of C life insurance so things can be in your control.

Don't let the feeling of security that group life provides distract you from the real issue: taking control of your family's financial future!

Please call Mark Mandel at 614-308-2294 or email me at [markmandel@wowway.com](mailto:markmandel@wowway.com). Call me – let's talk.

## **Council initiates new Family of the Month Program**

Responding to a new K of C State activity in the Family section, our Council 12772 has begun selecting a Family of the Month to be recognized. This program directly coincides with our Family of the Year Award given in April/May each year.

The State requires that we select a family nominee in 5 months out of the year; we will make such selections monthly throughout the year. The nominated family receives a certificate from our Council and their name is forwarded to Supreme where certain nominees are drawn for further recognition from Supreme.

Our nominees are selected on the basis of the family's participation in Council, Parish and community activities. Families selected thus far are:

August	Mike Balmert family
September	Jim Dvorsky family
October	Jon Santini family
November	Ed Stransky family

Future nominations will be reported in this newsletter.

## **Christmas donations made to needy families**

Our Council 12772 has again participated in the Community Christmas Basket Program, organized by the Plain City Presbyterian Church.

Through the program, three recipient families were identified; each of which consisted of father, mother, and 3 children.

Council Brother Ed Chuha and wife Bonnie then purchased gift cards for the families, one \$25 card for toys for each child and a \$30 card for the parents to help buy food for their Christmas feast.