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Faithful Navigator Report — SK John Massey

Reverend Father and Worthy Sir Knights,

We begin the month of March with the penitential season of Lent. As you look forward to the Easter Triduum masses, ending with the glorious celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday, I hope you are able to take time to prayerfully prepare for Holy Week.

Thank you to all the Sir Knights that were able to fallout to support the Chapa family at Brother Knight Carlos Chapa’s funeral. We had a total of eight SK fallout!

The Bishop has requested a fallout for the **Chrism Mass, Tuesday, March 26, 2024** 10:30am at St. Vincent de Paul. Fallout time is **9:30 a.m.**; I need to know by **March 12, 2024** so I can notify the District Master how many Sir Knights will need seats reserved.

Our next regular business meeting will be Monday, March 11th at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Catherine Parish Center. The officer meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul’s has requested a fallout for Saturday, March 16 at 9:00am for the groundbreaking of their new church. I expect the fallout time to be 8:30am but will verify and send out a reminder.

We will ask Council 8156 if we can host another monthly BBQ at St. Catherine’s on May 19th, with the proceeds going to “Warriors to Lourdes” (<https://www.warriorstolourdes.com/en/index.html>).

It was recently announced that the Fall 2024 4th Degree Exemplification will be hosted by the Bishop Reicher Assembly from Dripping Springs/Lakeway and will be held September 7th at Emmaus Church in Lakeway. We will schedule an admission meeting for candidates at St. Catherine’s sometime in August. Please talk to current 3rd Degree members about our 4th degree Assembly; it is extremely rare to have an exemplification this close to home.

We will be holding elections for the next fraternal year in May, please talk with any of our officers if you are interested. SK Giacomo advised me he will not be able to continue as our Faithful Scribe, so new officers will be needed.

Vivat Jesus!!

John Massey

Faithful Navigator

Bishop Louis J. Reicher Assembly 1099

Bishop Reicher
 Assembly 1099



**Happy Birthday
Sir Knights !!!**
May you have many more

Juan	Alfaro
Segundo	Argueta
Carl	Disher
Juan	Flores
Armand	Gagnon
Sergio	Galvan
Lorenzo	Garcia
John	Gemperle
Luis	Hernandez
Criston	Klotz
Patrick	Liddy
Sean	Mc Gee
Julio	Moreno
Douglas	Oldmixon
Kenneth	Otte
Roberto	Parker
Andrew	Sanchez
George	Van Ecken

Saint of the Month—SK Giacomo Leone

St. Valentine



Feast day: February 14

Patron: of Love, Young People, Happy Marriages

Death: 269

Author and Publisher - Catholic Online Edited By G, Leone

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology.

The legends attributed to the mysterious saint are as inconsistent as the actual identification of the man.

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Saint of the Month— Continued

One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test.

St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision.

Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. Asterius broke all the idols around his house, fasted for three days and became baptized, along with his family and entire 44 member household. The now faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates.

St. Valentine was later arrested again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II). According to the popular hagiographical identity, and what is believed to be the first representation of St. Valentine, the Nuremberg Chronicle, St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign. The story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. A relationship between the saint and emperor began to grow, until Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became raged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269. However, other tales of St. Valentine's life claim he was executed either in the year 269, 270, 273 or 280. Other depictions of St. Valentine's arrests tell that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."

Pope Julius I is said to have built a church near Ponte Mole in his memory, which for a long time gave name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, formerly, Porta Valetini.

The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived during the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. According to English 18th-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce, Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia.

Although the exact origin of the holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is widely recognized as a day for love, devotion and romance.

Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

Fr. John Spratt received a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836 containing a "small vessel tinged" with St. Valentine's blood. This gift now stands placed in Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Other alleged relics were found in Prague in the Church of St Peter and Paul at Vysehrad; in the parish church of St. Mary's Assumption in Chelmno Poland; at the reliquary of Roquemaure in France; in the Stephansdom in Vienna; in Balzan in Malta and also in Blessed John Duns Scotus' church in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, Scotland.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14.



Knights of Columbus Bishop Reicher
Assembly 1099

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The 4th Degree Patriotic Order of the Knights of Columbus is open to Third Degree Knights. Contact your Council Financial Secretary if you are interested or email the Faithful Navigator or Captain.

**Pay Dues or Make Donations Online
Now Available**

<https://kofc1099.org/dues/>

From the Editor

Contact the Editor: Greg Nelson gnelson8156@gmail.com

Webmaster for the Assembly Brandon Kraft bk@kraft.im

Meetings for Bishop Reicher Assembly 1099

Meeting Schedule:

The Second Monday of the Month at 7:30 pm

St. Catherine of Siena

4800 Convict Hill Road

Austin, TX 78749

Parish Activity Center

2nd Floor Room 213

Patriotic Americans

Fr. Francis Duffy -- The Doughboy Chaplain

Written by SK Lawrence P. Grayson



On July 15, 1918, in the “war to end all wars,” German troops undertook a massive assault against French and Army forces in the Champaign region of France. The allies repelled as many as seven attacks before the Germans began to pull back. As American doughboys of the 42nd Division continued to press, the enemy crossed the Ourcq River on July 28, to make a stand on the hills to its north. The area contained large stone farm buildings that were turned into fortresses, and small wooded clusters that provided coverage for numerous machine gun nests that had unobstructed fields of fire over large clearings.

The center of the American position, south of the river, was Villers-sur-Fere, a small village about a thousand yards from the enemy position. At its north end was a large church square, on which bordered a schoolhouse which was being used as a hospital. The square, in sight of the enemy, was a hub of activity, and so was frequently shelled and raked by machine gun fire. A narrow street leading to the square was aptly

named Dead Man’s Curve.

The Americans faced German air superiority and a determined, battle-seasoned enemy who was heavily armed and well-positioned. For four days of fierce fighting, the American continued the attack. They prevailed, driving the Germans farther north, but at a fearful price. The Division had been reduced to half of its combat strength. Of the over 5,600 American casualties, one-third occurred in or around Villers-Sur-Fere.

A calming presence as the battle raged was Fr. Francis Duffy, the Division’s senior chaplain. Father was always near the heaviest fighting, exposing himself to constant danger as he moved from unit to unit, carrying the wounded, comforting the dying, and relaxing tensions as he used his Irish wit in chatting or joking with soldiers. His effect on the morale of the troops was enlivening, much more so than that of a typical cleric. Colonel Douglas MacArthur, chief-of-staff of the 42nd Division, even thought of appointing him regimental commander, an unheard of position for a chaplain. For his valor in this engagement, Fr. Duffy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



General John Pershing, commanding the American troops, said that “despite constant and severe bombardment with shells and aerial bombs, he continued to circulate in and about the two aid stations and hospitals, creating an atmosphere of cheerfulness and confidence by his courageous and inspiring example.”

Francis Patrick Duffy was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1871 and emigrated to New York, where he was ordained a priest in 1896. Two years later, while engaged in graduate studies at The Catholic University of America, the United States entered the war against Spain over Cuba’s independence. He volunteered as an Army chaplain, but was not sent overseas. Completing a doctorate, Fr. Duffy joined the faculty at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Dunwoodie, in New York, where a student of his was Francis Patrick O’Boyle.

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Patriotic Americans —Continued

In 1912, Fr. Duffy was assigned as the founding pastor of Our Savior Parish in the Bronx. Shortly thereafter, he also assumed the duties as chaplain of the “Fighting Sixty-Ninth,” an Irish regiment of the New York National Guard. With America’s entry into World War I, the regiment was mobilized as the 165th Infantry Regiment and assigned to the newly established 42nd Division, known as the Rainbow Division as it was composed of National Guard units from 26 states.

As the Division sailed for France, the poet Joyce Kilmer, one of its members who was killed at the battle of the Ourcq, wrote that every morning, Father Duffy would offer Mass to a large crowd on the main deck. And every afternoon and evening, there would be a queue of soldiers “as long as the mess line” waiting for Father to hear their confessions. Throughout the war, as the unit fought in the Lunéville sector, the Baccarat sector, the Champaign sector, at the Ourcq, the St. Mihiel offensive, and the Argonne-Meuse offensive, a total of 180 days in combat, Fr. Duffy continued to minister to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the men. For this, he was highly beloved by the men and became a legendary figure.

A year after he received the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat award, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, a non-combat distinction, for his fearless and tireless devotion to duty and his inspirational leadership in the trenches and behind the lines. He also received New York State’s Conspicuous Service Cross, France’s Légion d’honneur, and the Croix de Guerre, making him the most highly decorated chaplain in the history of the U.S. Army.

After the war, Fr. Duffy returned to New York, and became pastor of Holy Cross Church, a few blocks from Times Square. In 1927, when Al Smith was running for president, Protestants were apprehensive that a Catholic with his allegiance to the Pope could not be loyal to the Constitution. Fr. Duffy ghostwrote a piece for Smith on Catholic American patriotism, in which he discussed aspects of religious freedom and freedom of conscience that were later reflected in the Declaration on Religious Freedom, issued by the Second Vatican Council.

When Father died in 1932, his requiem Mass was held in St. Patrick’s Cathedral to an overflow crowd estimated to be 25,000 mourners. He received full military honors, with his coffin carried on a caisson and accompanied by his riderless horse with his boots in reversed stirrups. Thousands of people from all walks of life accompanied his body from the cathedral to its final resting place in the Bronx. Later a statue of Father in his World War I uniform was placed on the north side of Times Square, an area now known as Duffy’s Square.

4th Annual Siena Car Show

On 28 July 2024, we will host our 4th Annual Siena Car Show. The Car Show will be held at **Buck's Backyard**, 1750 S FM 1626, Buda, TX 78610. The Car Show will benefit the Autism Society of Texas & other local charities supported by our council. The Autism Society of Texas offers advocacy, education events, information & referrals, support meetings and recreation for autistic adults. From the Autism Society of Texas website: *"The Autism Society of Texas offers recreational opportunities for families and adults with autism. During the Summer we hosted online recreation groups for kids and teens. We also have events such as seasonal holiday parties, AMC Sensory-Friendly Films, recreation and support groups for autistic adults, and Friends and Family Happy Hour just for parents and caregivers! Some of our other special events during the year have included Round Rock Baseball outings, water park outings, hockey games partnered with the Texas Stars Foundation, and summer fun pool parties. We also partner with other organizations to offer autism-friendly summer camp opportunities.*

If you have a vehicle you would like to showcase, please consider registering. If you know someone that loves to show off their prized possession, please pass along our information. Prizes will be awarded for: Best of Show, People's Choice, Knight's Choice, & Auto Club Most Entries. All Classes & types are welcome. Registration is \$25 (online) \$35 (at the gate), free t-shirt for the first 25 entries. Register online at: <https://www.kofc8156.org/car-show>.

We will also have vendors showing their crafts, wares and services for you to shop or look around. Last year we had a range of items from spicy jelly to ladies jewelry.

We will be opening up the volunteer page on our website soon; please consider signing up to help make the show a success. Some of the slots include: Concession Sales, Recording Votes, Supervising Bounce House/Fire Truck and of course, Clean Up. Please consider volunteering to help a worthy cause. The signup process is easy and does not require you to enter an email.

On behalf of the car show committee, we thank you for your support. We hope you can come out and enjoy the event!

For more information, Contact Bill Roberts, 512.940.4800.

