



Rev. John J. Murray

American Martyrs  
**KNIGHT LIGHT**  
Fr. John J. Murray Council #14666



Issue 9, January 2014

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**GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE**

*By Joe Timpa*

Brothers,

I am moved to rely upon Scripture for a New Year's message:

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the decision of the LORD that endures. **Proverbs 19:21**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ [Jesus]. Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus. Let us, then, who are "perfectly mature" adopt this attitude. And if you have a different attitude, this too God will reveal to you. Only, with regard to what we have attained, continue on the same course. **Philippians 3:12-16**

Sincere best wishes for the new year and always.

Joe T

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## Thanksgiving Food Drive - Most Successful Ever!

By Jim Tavear

On Saturday, November 23rd, the Father John J Murray Knights of Columbus Council held the last store food collection event of 2013.



It turned out to be the most successful event we have held. Due in part to the crowds shopping for their Thanksgiving dinners, we collected a total of 76 bags of food and over \$300 in cash donations.

Special thanks to all those who participated, especially the daughters of Rob Liatto, Dave Russell, Sal T and Brendan Leavy who charmed and entertained shoppers with donation chants and Christmas carols – these young girls warmed hearts on a chilly day.



Thank you all.



## Congratulations to our newest Third Degree Members

Robert Mitts and George Titzza took the Third Degree on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2013, at Immaculate Conception in Astoria.



## Thank You Catholic War Veterans!

On December 14, CWV Post #1772 held their annual Breakfast with Santa.

It was a beautiful day with great food, music, and every child received a gift!

Support our  
Veterans

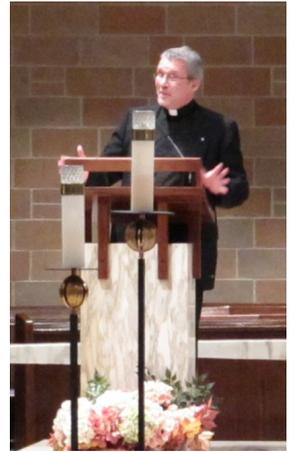


## American Martyrs Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Service

*By Michael Chimenti*

Once again the faith communities of our own American Martyrs Church and Hollis Hills Jewish Center came together on the evening of Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> to share in a special service of Thanksgiving, this year hosted on our own home turf of American Martyrs.

Each year, for the past 4 years, we have gotten together with our Jewish brothers and sisters of Hollis Hills, alternating the hosting venue. This year it was once again our turn to open our doors to our neighbors.

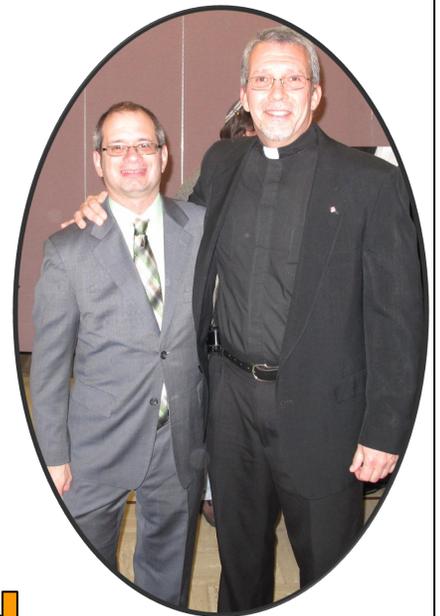


The evening included readings from the Old and New Testaments in both English and Hebrew. The evening's keynote preacher was Rabbi David Wise, the religious leader of Hollis Hills. Rabbi Wise gave a very poignant and interesting talk on the significance of this special year, where Thanksgiving and Hanukkah happen to coincide, a rare event that will not happen again for another several thousand years. This rare event, humorously being called "Thanksgivingkah", stresses the faith and values that we share as Jews, Catholics, and Americans.

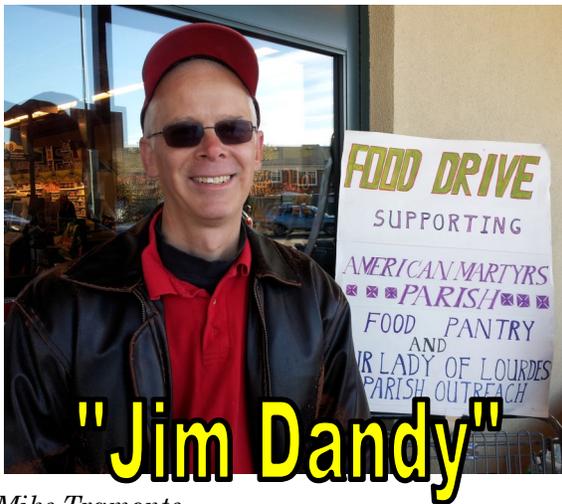
The evening also included musical selections from both the Hollis Hills and American Martyrs Choirs. Our own combined adult and children's choir offered up a special arrangement of Amazing Grace

called "Open My Eyes Lord", along with the Thanksgiving anthem "All Good Gifts" from the 70's musical "Godspell". The music was led by our own Patrick White and world renowned composer and cantor, Sol Zim.

The evening ended with several rousing selections composed by Cantor Zim performed by the joint choirs, ending with a patriotic rendition of "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America". The inspired crowd was sent off ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, secure in the final message presented by Fr. Frank that there is more that we share in our faith than divides us.



# Give Thanks To The Lord



By Mike Tramonte

One of the most successful activities our Council has undertaken this year has been the Food Collection drives, which we have conducted at our neighborhood supermarkets. The person who has spear-headed these drives is our selected Knight, **Jim Tavcar**.

Jim is a very active member of the Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council who has organized food drives this year at Key Food, Waldbaums, Shop and Stop and finally, a Thanksgiving food drive at Fairway Supermarket. This final drive was very successful as many Knights turned out to help. Our presence was certainly enhanced by the daughters of Rob Liatto, Brendan Leavy and Sal Tartaglione, and Dave Russell whose cheers encouraged shoppers to donate generously. We collected \$332.00 in donations and 70 bags of food. The money and food we collected supplied the food pantry at Our Lady of Lourdes and helped support our own St. Vincent DePaul Society of American Martyrs Church.

In addition to running the food drives, Jim heads up our Scholarship Fund which has awarded cash prizes to college and high school students from our parish for the past two years. Jim also helped make our St. Patrick's Day dinner a big success by inviting his daughter's dance group to perform and entertain our guests with traditional Irish dances.

Jim has been a member of American Martyrs Parish for the past twenty years and a member of the Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus for the past four and a half years. He has four children and he and his wife are active members of our parish and support all of our council's activities.

When I spoke to him for this article, he first wished to thank Grand Knight, Joe Timpa, for supporting him in all his activities and drives. He also said he would like to see the Knights reach out to support outside agencies in our community, such as "Sisters of Life."

Jim is also a relatively new golfer, and along with fellow Knight Carl Reyes, has been hitting the local golf courses at every opportunity. Hopefully, this spring, I will join them.

It was really nice talking to Jim, who describes himself as a quiet guy who likes to do more listening than talking. I believe his charitable work and efforts on behalf of our Council tell us everything we need to know about him. He is a terrific guy and a great Knight.

## This and That...

By Michael Mitts



Fr. Frank's homily on 12/29 spoke about family - the Holy Family as an example of all Christian families. As we are all brothers in Christ, every time I look around in church, my family gets bigger and bigger and bigger. Thank God!

Isn't it interesting that immediately

after Christmas Day, the only place you can hear "Christmas Music" is in church? While the secular world drops out, the Church teaches us that Christmas is a season lasting until The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; this year on January 12.

In the matter of holiday gifts ... Did you know that Dom D'Andrea is an expert baker, and if you are nice to him you may get treats? *Shhh...keep that a secret*

**Mr. Joseph Timpa, GRAND KNIGHT**  
**Knights of Columbus**  
**c/o American Martyrs Church**  
**79 43 Bell Blvd**  
**Bayside, New York 11364**

Reprinted here is an actual letter received thanking us for our generosity for donating a pair of bikes.

**“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” — [Mother Teresa](#)**



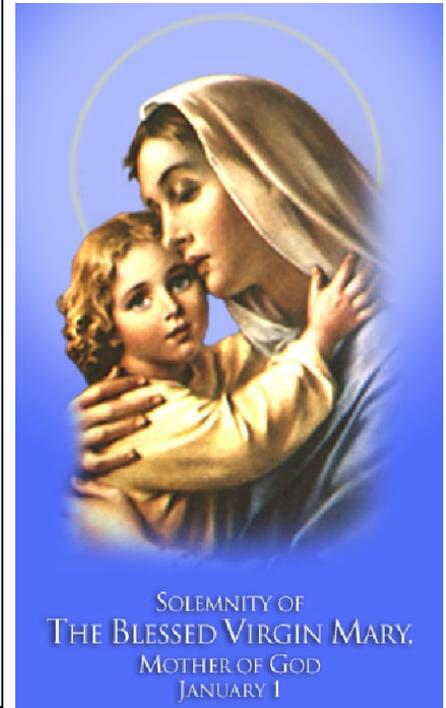
*Joe, please accept my apology for my tardiness in writing this letter. I want to thank you and your Brother Knights for the immediate response to my request in assisting a needy family in the Neighborhood. As busy as you were, you took time to ensure they were taken care of. I wish I had taken a photo of their faces when they received your generous donations.*

*I understand St. Vincent De Paul's Society was involved, will you please extend my sincere appreciation to all concerned.*

*Your Organization truly deserves the title of 'GOD'S UNSUNG TASK FORCE.'*

*My God Bless each and every one of you !*

*A Parishoner*



## A FAMILY PRAYER

**H**eavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work,  
may we reflect the self-giving love which you,  
O Father, eternally show with your Son  
and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns  
in our home and in the faith we profess and live.  
May our family always be a place of generosity,  
understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage  
to be witnesses to your eternal design for  
the family; and grant that the Holy Family  
of Nazareth may always guide our path  
to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.  
Amen.



Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain. The cover image of the Holy Family is a drawing by Giovanni Balestra, based on a painting by Sassoferrato. The original print is housed at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. Used with permission.

# American Martyrs Athletic Association Wreath Sale!

By Michael Cassano

In what is becoming an annual tradition, the AMAA had another successful Wreath Sale.

This year the better halves of DGK Mike Mitts and Knight Mike Cassano led the way bringing Holiday cheers to all that came for their wreaths.

Thanks again to all our Brother Knights for your support.

God Bless.

**Support the AMAA!**



Nancy Mitts & Racquel Uy

## The Stone is in Place

The tree that was planted last year to replace the original tree destroyed by Superstorm Sandy, finally received it's dedication stone. The story of the tree was featured in the January 2013 issue of the Knight Light. The stone reads:



PLANTED AFTER SUPERSTORM SANDY BY  
FR. JOHN J. MURRAY  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
IN MEMORY OF  
MICHAEL AND GRACE REILLY  
ROBERT AND GRACE SHOULE  
11-21-2012 BY CREATE "A" SCAPE



Be sure to check it out.



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follow us on **twitter** @KofC14666



Mike & Racquel were captured on live TV at Times Square. As always - representing American Martyrs



Follow us on the web <http://home.catholicweb.com/FatherJohnMurrayKofC>

Ring in the New Year ...  
Mike Cassano style