

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

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Easter Sunday April 5th



Christ the Lord Has Risen Today

"I am the resurrection and the life. All who believe in me will have life everlasting."

"For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."



Headlines of Interest
to Catholics

Man Pleads Guilty for Planning a Killing during a Mass.

Christians are the Most Persecuted Group Globally.

Man Arrested for Second Attempt to Burn Church.

Pope Leo shows how to move on with dignity after being betrayed.

Record Number to enter church this Easter in Newark Archdiocese.

Scottish Bishops Oppose Assisted Suicide Bill.

Catholics need to approach bodily penances with prudence.

People are hungry for the Lord says catechist as record numbers prepare to join church.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Rocco Totino

As this fraternal year comes to a close, our council needs to focus on those programs we hope to accomplish. For example, our final Life Program is the long-stem roses for Mother's Day in May. Like last year, we plan to hand red roses after each Mass to mothers and grandmothers. This life program was very successful last year, and we hope it is even more so

this year. Please volunteer to help Brother Kevin Manning, our life director, at Mass and please wear your blue shirts both weekends.

OCIA Director Andre' Luiz Kuhner asked if our council would provide a simple lunch / snacks for the celebrants and families of OCIA class on Sunday, April 12, after the 12:30 Mass. About 70 are expected to attend. We are making arrangements with parish office to book Parish Center. Two or three are considering of joining our council. Two or three are considering joining Columbiettes.

We'll also continue to support the Grotto and Early Childhood Center the second Saturday of every month. We continue to clean the grotto and Rosary areas (faith program) as well as assist the ECC with odd jobs. We also need help on Easter Sunday with parking. We need at least 6 knights all morning to help with the overload of cars. As you know, there are Masses in the church, parish center, and tent. This means the overflow of cars needs to be directed to the back field behind the grotto. Please consider helping for an hour or two on Easter morning.

Finally, we will have council elections in May at the general meeting. We still have a few positions to fill: the Deputy Grand Knight and Advocate. Please take the time to discern whether you are being called to help our council this year. Feel free to reach out to any of the council officers if you have questions about the officer positions.

Vivid Jesus.



LAUGHTER
is the best
MEDICINE

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Ruthless.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was standing on the deck.

What's a missionary's favorite kind of car?
A convertible.

Why did the student eat his homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

Why is it a good idea to bring a ladder to church?
To reach the high notes.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
Frostbite.

What is a cannibal's favorite meal?
Baked beans (beings).

How does Moses make his coffee?
Hebrews it.

What time of day was Adam created?
A little before Eve.

Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants?
In case he got a hole in one.

What kind of lights did Noah use on the Ark?
Floodlights.

Why did the church organist break up with the piano player?
They weren't in harmony.

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself?
It was two-tired.

Knight of the Month



Joe Coyne

One of Our Brothers Goes to His Heavenly Reward



Bill Leary

Four Things Christians Believe That Others Find Outrageous

1. The Dead Rising To Life

The idea that a man died a brutal death and walked out of his grave three days later is the hinge of the entire faith. It defies everything biology tells us about mortality and the finality of death, asking the world to accept a physical miracle as historical fact. Without this single event, the rest of the religion would admittedly fall apart.

Skeptics often look for metaphorical meanings, but orthodox believers insist this was a literal, bodily event that actually happened in history. According to a study by Lifeway Research, 66% of Americans say the biblical accounts of Jesus' physical resurrection are completely accurate. This statistic shows that despite the scientific impossibility, a majority still hold to this supernatural claim.

2. A Virgin Giving Birth

Biology 101 teaches us that conception requires two parties, but the Christmas story throws that rule right out the window. Christians hold that Mary became pregnant through

the Holy Spirit, bypassing the natural order entirely to bring Jesus into the world. It is a claim that has invited ridicule and confusion since the earliest centuries.

For believers, this miracle signals that Jesus was not just another human moral teacher but God in the flesh, entering our reality. To the secular mind, it sounds more like Greek mythology than a historical biography.

3. The World Was Created in Six Days

While science points to billions of years of cosmic evolution, a segment of believers sticks to a literal six-day timeline. They argue the book of Genesis is an accurate historical record rather than a poetic allegory for the origins of the universe. This view often puts them at direct odds



with modern This perspective is not as fringe as some might assume, even in a technologically advanced society like the United States. A Gallup poll revealed that 37% of Americans believe God created humans in their present form within the last 10,000 years. That number highlights a significant portion of the population that rejects the standard evolutionary model.

4. Eating Flesh and Drinking Blood

Communion services can sound morbid if you take the language literally, especially the talk of eating a body and drinking blood. For Catholics and some others, this is not a symbol; they believe the bread and wine actually become the essence of Jesus. Outsiders often find this ritual vaguely cannibalistic and difficult to wrap their heads around. Most Protestant groups view the practice as symbolic, but the language used during the service remains intense and graphic. It forces the participant to grapple with the violent death of Christ in a very visceral way. Participating in this ritual is a non-negotiable act of worship every single Sunday.

O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?



The taboo subject of all. For many of us, death is what tore a loved one away from us, and so it is shrouded in sadness and loss. But Christians should have a different slant even as we grieve. The early Christians' attitude toward death was that of achieving a goal, a going home to be with Christ, a fulfillment. So what changed between the early Christians and us?

We got a smidge too comfy in this life. We cozied up to this world a bit too much, became too complacent, perhaps as prosperity, technological advances, and modern medicine made

our lives easier. It seemed we could have a little slice of Heaven on earth. The Second Person of the Trinity becoming incarnate gave us a whole new supernatural dimension to our lives: to live the very divine life of God while on earth through the Sacraments and sanctifying grace.

Ever since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, we were born to die, but because of Jesus' Sacrifice, death is no longer the same. The gates of heaven are opened to us, and so we are fortunate to be able to say, "O death, where is thy sting?"

ally think often about our death, or like to think about death at all? Someone once called death the most

9 Things in the Bible That Science Has Confirmed to be True

1. The Earth Is Round

Isaiah 40:22 refers to the "circle of the earth," a description that aligns with our planet's spherical shape. While sailors and astronomers would later prove Earth's roundness through observation, this biblical reference predates those discoveries by centuries. The Hebrew word used can mean both circle and sphere, showing remarkable geographical insight for its time.

2. Blood Is Essential for Life

Leviticus 17:11 declares "the life of the flesh is in the blood," a statement that perfectly describes blood's biological role. Modern physiology confirms blood transports oxygen, nutrients, hormones, and immune cells while removing waste—making it absolutely essential for survival, making the biblical understanding centuries ahead of medical practice.

3. Job 36:27-28 describes how God "draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist," outlining evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Ecclesiastes 1:7 adds that "all streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full" because water returns to its source. The complete hydrological cycle wasn't scientifically documented until the 17th century, yet these passages captured its essence thousands of years earlier.

4. Air Has Weight

Job 28:25 speaks of God establishing a weight for the wind, an unusual concept for ancient times when air seemed weightless. We now measure atmospheric pressure with barometers and understand that air has measurable weight pressing down on us at about 14.7 pounds per square inch at sea level. This biblical reference to wind's weight aligns perfectly with our understanding of air pressure.

5. Quarantine Prevents Disease Spread

Leviticus 13 outlines detailed procedures for isolating people with infectious skin diseases until they're declared clean. This ancient practice of quarantine matches modern public health protocols for containing contagious illnesses. Public health historians recognize these Levitical rules as some of the earliest documented disease-control measures.

6. Proper Sanitation Saves Lives

Deuteronomy 23:12-14 instructs people to carry a spade and bury human waste outside the camp. This simple practice dramatically reduces fecal-oral disease transmission like cholera and dysentery.

7. Handwashing Prevents Infection

Levitical laws required ritual washing of hands and objects, practices that would have reduced contamination even beyond their ceremonial purpose. Modern medicine confirms that handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent diseases from spreading.

8. The Universe Is Winding Down

Psalms 102:25-26 describes the heavens and earth "growing old like a garment" and "perishing." This aligns remarkably well with the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states that entropy increases and energy disperses over time. The biblical image of a "winding down" universe matches our scientific understanding of it.

9. Circumcision Timing Matters

Genesis 17:12 specifies circumcision should occur on the eighth day of life, a timing that seemed arbitrary until medical research revealed why. Blood-clotting factors (particularly vitamin K) peak on the eighth day, making it the safest time for the procedure with minimal bleeding risk. This precise timing shows remarkable medical insight for an ancient practice.

Six Animals Mentioned in the Bible and What They Symbolize

1. A Lamb

The lamb is one of the most powerful and meaningful animal symbols in the Bible. It represents innocence, purity, sacrifice, and obedience. In the New Testament, Jesus is called the Lamb of God, connecting His sacrifice to the earlier traditions.



2. A Dove

The dove is a symbol of peace, hope, purity, and the presence of God. One of the earliest and most well-known examples appears in the story of Noah. After the flood, a dove returned to the ark carrying an olive leaf, signaling that the waters had receded and life could begin again. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is described as descending like a dove at the baptism of Jesus, reinforcing the connection between the bird and God's gentle presence.



3. A Serpent

A serpent is one of the most complex and powerful symbols in the Bible. It is most commonly associated with temptation, deception, and spiritual danger, especially in the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.



4. An Eagle

In the book of Exodus, God tells the Israelites that He carried them on eagles' wings, describing rescue, guidance, and protection during their journey. The eagle's ability to soar high above storms also represents spiritual perspective and endurance.



5. A Donkey

Unlike horses, which were often associated with war and power, donkeys were working animals used for carrying burdens and traveling long distances. Their steady and gentle nature made them a symbol of faithful service. One of the most important appearances of a donkey in the Bible occurs when Jesus enters Jerusalem riding a donkey instead of a war horse.



6. A Sheep

Sheep are closely connected to themes of guidance, dependence, and care, direction, and protection. Because sheep are vulnerable and easily lost, the image highlights the importance of a shepherd who watches over them. Jesus continues this image, calling Himself the Good Shepherd who cares deeply for each individual.



To change the world,
we must be kind
to those
who cannot
repay us.

Today make time
for the people you love.
That will make this day
unforgettable.

People were created to be loved.
Things were created to be used.
The world is in chaos,
because things are being loved,
and people are being used,

BITS AND PIECES

St. Isidore of Seville is credited with introducing the standardized usage of the comma, the period, and the colon in writing.

At this year's Easter Vigil, the Archdiocese of Detroit will receive 1,428 catechumens and candidates, the most to join the Church in the archdiocese since 2005.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity were young Christian mothers martyred around the year 203. Perpetua, a 22-year-old noblewoman, refused to renounce Christ even while imprisoned with her infant, while Felicity gave birth to her daughter just days before her execution. Their courage was recorded as one of the earliest martyrs.

Blessed Villana de' Botti ran away at 13 to enter a convent but was sent home and later married. After falling into a worldly life, she saw her reflection appear as a demon — a shock that sparked her dramatic conversion.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the elderly are financially healthier than ever.

Mother Cabrini garners most votes as person to be depicted in planned statue for Chicago park.

Born to a family in Seville, Spain, in 1846, Saint Angela of the Cross overcame poor health to found the Sisters of the Company of the Cross. The sisters dedicated themselves to a life of radical poverty and tireless service to the poor.

Armed Man Runs Car into Synagogue.

A Legal Fund Joins Coalition to Fight Assisted Suicide.

Americans' engagement with religion continues to linger at much lower levels than in past decades.

A student in Mongolia's capital knelt before a Nativity scene and prayed to find her phone. Although she never found the phone, the moment sparked her conversion to the Catholic faith. "What draws me to the Catholic Church is the altar, where the Body and Blood of Jesus are sacrificed and given to the people," she said. "This nourishes the soul. I want to experience it personally."

Reflecting on the Book of Jonah, a Catholic mother said how fleeing God's call is ultimately fleeing His presence. "When life gets hard, we tend to run away," Gracie Muraski wrote. "And yet, this is actually very foolish, because it is within the living out of the call that God has given us that we find His grace."

Planned Parenthood affiliates are turning to Botox injections, intravenous (IV) hydration drips, and other cosmetic services to offset steep financial losses.

Born into wealth in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Saint Katharine Drexel gave all of it away for Christ.

Geologists Say They Have Confirmed That an Earthquake Occurred after Jesus' Death As Quoted in Scripture

A published geological study which concluded that an earthquake occurred in ancient Israel around the time of Jesus's crucifixion, has resurfaced in a viral social media post.

The study's finding, published in *International Geology Review*, is consistent with the biblical account, which said an earthquake occurred immediately after Jesus's death.

The apostle Matthew wrote in chap-



ter 27 of his Gospel that darkness covered the land, starting at midday, as Jesus hung on the cross, and that this phenomenon lasted for the next three hours.

Then, around 3:00 p.m., "Jesus cried out

with a loud voice, saying, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

Soon thereafter, He cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

"And behold, the curtain of the tem-

ple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many," Matthew wrote.

When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

9 After-Life Beliefs from Different Religions

1. Christianity

Christianity provides a clear distinction between heaven and hell. Christians portray heaven as a paradise where souls who have accepted Jesus Christ can exist eternally with God. In stark contrast, hell stands as a cautionary destination. It is reserved for souls who have strayed from the path of righteousness and have not sought redemption. Within Christianity, the final resting place of a soul is contingent upon faith.

2. Islam

Islamic teachings, too, present a dualistic vision of the afterlife: heaven, or "Jannah", and hell, "Jahannam." Those who lived under the Quran, maintained faith in Allah, and performed commendable deeds find solace in Jannah—a place full of peace and beauty. Conversely, with its punitive ambiance, Jahannam awaits those who defy God's teachings.

3. Hinduism

Distinct from the previous religions, Hinduism introduced a different concept. This is known as "samsara," the ceaseless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. In a current life, one's actions, or karma, impact the conditions and status of the next life. The goal is to meet moksha, which signifies a soul's freedom from this recurring cycle, ushering it into eternal tranquility.

4. Buddhism

Buddhism also acknowledges the cycle

of samsara. Yet, the end goal here is nirvana, a state that ceases all suffering and desires. This marks the end of the samsaric cycle. To reach this state, followers are encouraged to follow the Eightfold Path, which encompasses profound truths about life combined with practices like kindness, mindfulness, and proper conduct.

5. Judaism

Within Judaism, the perspectives on the afterlife are diverse and multifaceted. While certain scriptures do touch upon the existence of heaven ("Gan Eden") and hell ("Gehinnom"), a significant emphasis within the Jewish faith remains on leading a purposeful, ethical life in the present. This often manifests in performing mitzvot, or good deeds, and focusing on earthly responsibilities.

6. Indigenous Religions

The vast expanse of indigenous cultures worldwide has given rise to many unique beliefs about death. For instance, certain Native American tribes hold a view in the Happy Hunting Ground, a realm where souls experience peace and reunite with past ancestors.

7. Atheism

Though atheism doesn't align with religious teachings, its perspective on the afterlife is worth noting. Generally, atheists don't subscribe to beliefs in deities or a place to go after

dying. They often view death as the cessation of consciousness and existence. This perspective underscores the significance and impermanence of life on Earth, prompting a focus on the present.

8. Agnostic

Similar to atheism, agnostics do not belong to a particular religion. They don't reject the idea of a god, but they also acknowledge that they don't know what the afterlife holds or whether God exists. They might also be seen as a skeptic, or someone who has a hard time believing in any particular religion. As such, the afterlife may feel like even more of a mystery to them than someone who is an atheist or part of a religion.

9. Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism, one of the oldest known religions, has a belief in the afterlife. The soul is judged after death and sent to either heaven or hell based on its deeds in life.

The ultimate goal is to reach heaven and be reunited with the supreme deity. These varied beliefs can offer solace, moral guidance, and a sense of purpose. Understanding these perceptions can encourage greater empathy and respect among different faiths and cultures. In this shared human journey, there's value in recognizing and appreciating the rich diversity of religions that attempt to decipher life's most enduring mystery.

A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation. As long as the relationship lives in the heart, true friends will never part.

Weak people want revenge. Strong people know how to forgive. Intelligent people know how to ignore foolishness.

Thank God and bless your friends who love you and share their wisdom with you.

What We Notice When Our Loved Ones Are Approaching Death

The most common things people say or experience before dying are part of a deeply human process. These experiences serve as a reminder that the end is often filled with peace and love.

1. A Person's Breathing Changes

The "death rattle" is a well-known but often misunderstood sound that occurs when someone is nearing the end of life. This gurgling or rattling sound happens when the body can no longer clear the throat. While it sounds terrible to those listening, it's important to understand that the person usually doesn't feel discomfort at all. By this point, they are unconscious, and it's a natural part of the body's shutdown process.

2. "The Look" is another strange behavior that happens when someone is dying.

The person might stare intently at a corner of the room or appear transfixed by something unseen. Sometimes, they even smile or seem surprised by whatever is unfolding in front of them. It's as if they're seeing something that we can't. The person is somewhere between this world and the next, possibly captivated by whatever lies ahead, offering them a sense of calm.



3. A Surge of Energy

Known as "The Rally," this sudden burst of energy is a bittersweet moment for families. It typically happens just before death and is marked by a loved one who wakes up, asks for their favorite meal, or suddenly becomes conversational when they hadn't been responsive in days. Families often see this as a sign of recovery, but it's typically the body's final gift—a chance for the person to say goodbye, share their love, or connect one last time. It's an emotional moment, often filled with both hope and a deep sense of finality.

4. The Phenomenon of Visioning

"Visioning" is an intriguing occurrence where, in their final days, people begin seeing and interacting with

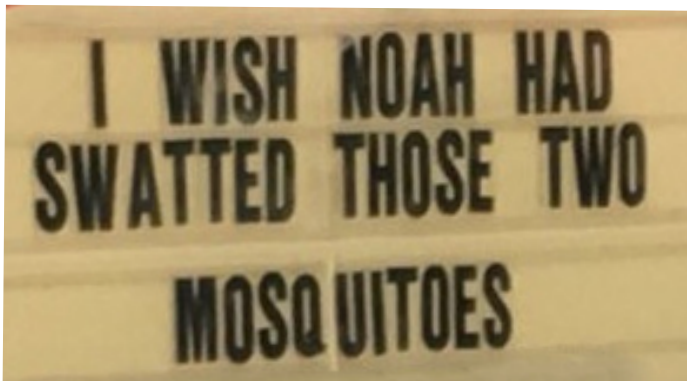
loved ones or even pets who have already died. This usually happens about a month before the end of life. It's incredibly comforting. Some believe it's a sign of spiritual transition, while others think it's simply the brain's way of making the end easier. Either way, it provides peace and a sense of connection with those who are no longer physically present, easing the passage from life to whatever comes next.

5. Calling Out for Parents

Another frequent phenomenon is people calling out for their parents, even if those parents passed away long ago. This is especially poignant because it's a return to the source of comfort. No matter how old a person is, the instinct to seek out parental figures for reassurance is deeply ingrained in human nature.

6. The Power of "I Love You"

At the end of life, there's one phrase that seems to echo more than any other: "I love you." Despite all the complexities of life, the thing that remains most important is love. As the body begins to let go, the heart seems to hold onto those connections more strongly than ever. In the end, we take with us the love we've shared. It's a quiet but powerful reminder of what truly matters.



St. Michael the Archangel,
 defend us in battle.
 Be our protection against
 the wickedness and snares
 of the devil.
 May God rebuke him,
 we humbly pray,
 and do thou,
 O Prince of the Heavenly
 Hosts,
 by the power of God,
 cast into hell Satan
 and all the evil spirits,
 about seeking the ruin of
 souls.
 Amen



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2025-2026

Officers for fraternal year. 2025/2026

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Grand Knight:	Rocco Totino
Deputy Grand Knight:	Rick Hendrickson
Chancellor:	Joe Coyne
Recorder:	Bob Jodal
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Treasurer:	Rich Pettit
Advocate:	Pete Nunes
Warden:	Joe Ghezzi
Inside Guard:	Wayne Nunez Clint Walker
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