

note the date

december

8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary's sinless conception is the reason why Catholics refer to Mary as "full of grace"

22 January Bulletin

Last day to submit material

25 Christmas

Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

january 2021

1 The Solemnity of Mary

On this holy day of obligation, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation.

6 The Feast of the Epiphany

The Epiphany celebrates the visit of the three wise men to the Christ Child.

May you all enjoy a blessed Christmas and a healthy & happy New Year!

— The Kolping Bulletin staff



MISSION STATEMENT: We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, extend the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family; we foster a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

DECEMBER

KOLPING NY RESIDENCES 2020 & 2021 Challenges

PLEASE KEEP YOUR KOLPING SOCIETY IN YOUR PRAYERS! Our flagship Kolping House—at 165 East 88th Street—has been operating for over 100 years! We have seen both hard times and good times and we have come through them because our members collaborate and work to make Father Kolping's principles and vision a reality in modern times.

With demand for our space so decreased in 2020, we are adapting our offerings. The 88th Street House is now open to both men and women. For the time being, we are waiving the requirement that residents be interns or students and we are accepting any visitors to New York seeking our basic, affordable accommodations.

We are piloting a co-working program that will rent private, secure offices to individuals looking for a space in the City for a day or week or month. Residential rooms are \$75 for one night or \$275 for a week. Offices are \$40 for one day or \$150 for a week. Please spread the word to your friends and families.

As our Board continues to brainstorm and work on new and improved programs to keep our Society flourishing, we are asking each Kolping member to pray for inspiration and guidance for our family. Please also take a moment to think of new procedures or ideas that could be implemented and grow our revenue or decrease our expenses. Please email your ideas to kolpingny@gmail.com. These will be compiled and reviewed at the board meetings going forward. Thank you for your continued support and participation in our Catholic Kolping Society.



KOLPING BULLETIN

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Milestones & Passages



Everyone could use the power of prayer now and again. If you or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please let us know and we will be happy to include them within the "in our prayers" list. Please contact Joan Smyth Dengler (914-432-2535) or email kolpingny@gmail.com when you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital, or has passed away. We want to be sure to remember them.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN DECEMBER:

Daniel Allen, Sara Baum, Barbara Beirne, Laura Beyrer, Donna Boeschl, Karen Cleveland, Stacy Connolly, Michelle Crisci, Tracy Criscuolo, Sean Crowley, Daniel Dengler, Justin Dengler, Ernst Endrich, Kathleen Ferony, Michael Flannery, Kathleen Fuccheck, Gail Gleason, Greta Grossmann, Bridget Horan, Jennifer Horan, Michael Horan, John Joyce, Matt Keller, Katelyn Krupa, Kelly Krupa, Patricia Kummer, David Lauth, Irene Leili, Arthur Macchia, Stefan Manz, Stephen McGuire, Amanda Mersits, Peter Mersits, James Minarik, Edward Monks, Sabrina Ostroff, Megan Prokopiak, Brian Rafford, Andrew Reitter, Charles Roberts, Erik Severin, Charles Smith, Hertha Stang, Patrick Tandy, John Unger, Alfred E. Vogl, Jr., Adam Ward, Debra Weigand and Michael Weinborg.

If you know someone celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary, please let us know so we can include it in the Bulletin. Please email either me at editor@kolpingny.org or Joan Smyth Dengler at kolpingny@gmail.com.

ADVENT PROJECT 2020

OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN AND LIFT OUR OWN HEARTS

As part of our Kolping mission we work to develop ourselves and our fellow members spiritually, educationally, charitably and socially. Every year we designate an Advent project. Members propose small local charitable endeavors where a gift from our Kolping family can make a big impact.

For 2020, the beneficiary of our Advent project will be the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. This congregation was founded recently—in the 1980s—and they work in the trenches with people in their community. Our Lady Queen of Angels Convent is on East 113th Street in Manhattan. The sisters here work with the families of East Harlem. They run both a food pantry and a soup kitchen. The sisters also work with the children at Our Lady of Angels School, preparing them for Mass and leading them in regular Eucharistic adoration.

We are 400 members strong in our Kolping Family. We have set a goal to make a \$10,000 gift to the Sisters for their work with our poor neighbors throughout the coming winter. A large amount like this will be easy if we each send \$25—probably less than most Christmas gifts we'll be buying. If you can give more, know that the Sisters will use your gift wisely. If you can give less, think of the impact it will make when combined with all the gifts from our Kolping Family.

Our members with children could teach them about serving others by running a family Advent project. Kids could set aside a quarter every day for 24 days and make a \$6 gift. An older child might be able to give \$1 every day for 24 days and turn that into a \$24 gift. Empowering our children to help others gives our own kids a valuable lesson.

Gifts can be sent to any of our Kolping locations or to Joan Dengler at 7 Ganung Drive, Ossining, NY 10562. Mark your check or envelope "**Advent**" and we will put all of our gifts together to send to the Franciscan Sisters along with a list of our contributors so the Sisters can offer their thanks by praying for us.



2020 DUES

Please forward your check made out to **Catholic Kolping Society** and mail it to Catholic Kolping Society, 165 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128 **Att: Joan Smyth Dengler, Secretary**

Family: \$105

Individual: \$90

Student: \$45

50-year members: paid up forever!

Please take an extra minute to fill in the bottom of the letter **with your current email address**, any change in address, phone number, birthdays, and other information. Mail it back with your dues to our secretary, Joan Smyth Dengler. She will be updating the files and will include your email address on her email account. She will be sending out notices of new events to you via email this spring.



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News & Notes

NOTE FROM KOLPING-ON-HUDSON

The KOH 2020 season was a difficult one—but our Kolping Members proved they were up to the challenge.

We want to once again give a heartfelt thanks to all who donated to the Legacy Fund. You made it possible for our tradesman to do a fantastic job in the dining room. And many thanks to everyone who volunteered this KOH season—from clean-up to closing down.

KOH is now officially closed. We are still under all NYS Covid19 rules. As per the KOH Rules & Regulations the KOH grounds may be used when closed. Members only are allowed on the property. If you want to come on the property please email, call or text Lou Colletti—email: LCookie1129@aol.com / cell: (914) 275-7481.

With the Retirement of Manager, Heidi Umland, there is a new email address. Jen Ahrens-Scheuermann will be receiving the email at the following address: **kohmanager95@gmail.com**

Looking forward to KOH 2021 Season. Have a very Blessed Winter, Stay Safe & Pray!

Gerhard Schmitt, NY Kolping Society President

Lou Colletti, KOH House Chairman

KOLPING AND VOCATIONS

Our Catholic Kolping Society New York has a project directed to supporting young people who would like to explore a trade. College is only one path among many and it is sometimes difficult to know where to begin to explore other options. Funded by a generous legacy gift, the Kolping Occupational and Vocational Apostolate project contributes to defray the employer's cost of training a young person who is endeavoring to enter a particular vocational training and learn new skills.

A KOVA grant is a one-time payment to help encourage an employer to take the extra time and energy of investing in training the next generation. Applications are considered on a rolling basis. **Persons interested in KOVA (employer or trainee) should email kolpingny@gmail.com.** Inquiries will be forwarded to the KOVA committee for consideration.

Please consider the young people in your life and whether this might present a good opportunity for them to learn, grow, and secure non-college-based educational training.

GET YOUR KOLPING BULLETIN FASTER – VIA EMAIL!

Are you receiving a paper copy of the bulletin? Would you like to receive it via email instead? If so, email Secretary Joan Dengler at kolpingny@gmail.com and she can switch you to digital distribution. You'll receive the news faster and you'll save your Society a little money in the process.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

If you or someone you know have any questions regarding sponsoring a new member, checking the status of an existing application, application process, dues, membership status, or questions about the Society as a whole, please contact **membership@kolpingny.org**. We are pausing the process of interviewing and inducting new members to the Kolping Society at this time. If you have sponsored someone for membership, we will revisit the applications in the Fall with the goal of having inductions May 2021.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER 2020 INTENTION

PRAYER INTENTION FOR EVANGELISATION: FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

St. Nikolaus Celebration

Sadly we are not able to celebrate together in person this December, the St. Nikolaus celebration is on hold til next year. At the St. Nikolaus party we always celebrate our long-term members and recognize those who've made it to 25-year, 50-year and 65-year membership milestones. Please say a special prayer for these members in honor of their committed membership in our Catholic Kolping Society New York:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Manfred Gallwitz | 50 years |
| Jennifer Ahrens Scheuermann | 25 years |
| Katrina Dengler | 25 years |
| Joan Dengler | 25 years |

Christmas Past—celebrating the Season at Kolping over the years



Bob Hemsing, Vinny Lambot, Mae and George Ulrich and friends



Persons of the year Bobby Jaki and Barbara Weber



The Music Men: Jack McGee and Gerhard Reslmaier



Wolfgang Hahn, Mary Minarik and friend

Christmas Traditions

Submitted by Katherine Weigand

The Christmas Tree

Catholic legend, based on historical events, tells us that St. Boniface (680-754) is the founder of the use of a Christmas tree to celebrate the birth of Christ. Born in England, St. Boniface entered the Benedictine monastery. He yearned to bring the faith to the regions of Germany. Pope Gregory II commissioned him to preach the Gospel in the regions of Thuringia, Bavaria, Franconia, and Hesse and to establish monasteries there.

As St. Boniface journeyed throughout Germany, he decided to evangelize the inhabitants of the village of Geismar. It was known that the people of this village participated in an annual winter event of worship centered on sacrificing a human, usually a small child, to the pagan god. To perform this ritual, villagers gathered around a huge oak tree (known as Thunder Oak) dedicated to the god Thor. Boniface and his friends arrived at the time of the sacrifice and with an axe Boniface chopped down the Thunder Oak. Pointing to a little fir tree, the holy bishop presented the Gospel to the people. He said, "This little tree shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace...the sign of endless life (always green). See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child."

Awed by the destruction of the oak tree and Boniface's preaching, the Germans were baptized. In the 1800s, German settlers brought the Christmas tree tradition to Pennsylvania. The rest of America adopted the tradition in 1846.



The Creche (Nativity Scene)

In 1223 St. Francis was visiting the town of Greccio. St. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar.

However, this Midnight Mass would be very special! Francis explained to his good friend Giovanni Vellita how to prepare the niche "to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem." And so, Giovanni began to prepare for the event immediately as Francis indicated. People

prepared torches and candles to light up the night. The manger was prepared in the cave, and the ox and ass brought in. When the great evening arrived, people began to come in procession, carrying their torches and candles. Francis wanted the people to realize exactly what God had done for his people and "how poor he chose to be for our sakes." After his death in 1226, the custom of having the crib at Christmas spread widely through Europe.

KOLPING SKI TRIP

Mountaineer Inn at Mount Snow, Vermont

Friday-Sunday, March 12-14, 2021

We are hopeful that our annual ski trip will happen in March 2021. It will be helpful to get an idea from our members of the likelihood of coming on this trip if you had to make payment by February 1st for a trip March 12th. We are finding out from the folks at the Mountaineer about what sort of guarantees or refunds they could provide to us if we needed to cancel the trip due to covid issues after we've paid for our lodging.

When you have a moment, please email Joan Dengler at joanandted@gmail.com to let her know your thoughts. It will help with planning.

As a reminder, your reservation at the Mountaineer will include two hearty country breakfasts, wine, cider and cheese reception, Saturday evening gourmet dinner, tax and gratuity.

