



Spring Spotlight: Fall & Winter Contest Winners

Fall and winter usher in the Knights of Columbus contest season. As temperatures cool, students practice their athletic skills, sharpen their pencils and take out their paint brushes in anticipation of the Knights of Columbus competitions. The Knights sponsor annual contests to engage children’s academic, athletic, and artistic talents. Overall, the contests encourage children to be engaged and thoughtful citizens and members of society. The Knights of Columbus congratulates all our contest winners.

Catholic Citizens Essay Contest:

The Catholic Citizens Essay Contest encourages today’s youth to be more connected to their community and their their faith. By doing so it involves young Catholics in civic discourse and instills religious and life-affirming values.

Students were asked to write an essay on the topic “Out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?” Each essay was evaluated by a panel which considered grammar, style, and how clearly the theme was presented.

Essays showcased creativity, imagination and overall topic development. Council winners progressed to the District, State, and International levels.

Students wrote about popes ranging from St. Peter, our first pope, to Leo XIV, our current pope. The most popular choices were John Paul II, Leo I, and St. Peter. Many students described how Leo I faced down Atilla the Hun and prevented Rome from being sacked. Others wrote about John Paul II who traveled the world, helped defeat Communism, and started World Youth Day.

And of course, there was Gregory the Great who gifted his inheritance to the Church and created the Gregorian Chant. Our winners were:

Name	GR	CW	DW
Luca Guerra	8	X	
Brylee Hamilton	8	X	
Abigail Brier	8	X	
Asher Cross	9	X	X
Andrew McCloskey	10	X	
Peter McCloskey	10	X	
Gloria Gallagher	10	X	X
Sebastian Cross	11	X	X

Key: Grade (GR), Council Winner (CW), District Winner (DW)



Youth Soccer Challenge:

The Soccer Challenge encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in soccer – shooting accuracy on the penalty kick. They compete to reach the international level of competition.

The competition, which took place at Saint John Paul the Great High School, included 26 entrants from 4 different Knights of Columbus councils. Of those, 17 entrants were from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. District winners were determined by comparing the scores from Parish winners with the scores of participants from three neighboring Parishes who, with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, make up our local District. The District scores are again compared to those from 33 other Districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia and State Champions are determined.

10 of the 17 participants from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton won at the Parish level, of those 6 won at the District level, and 2 at the State level. We congratulate all our winners and especially 14-year old Eliana Haller, and 13-year old Nathan Haller, both State of Virginia Champions. Two years ago, Eliana was the 12-year old State Champion and Nathan is now a three times champion, having won as an 11-year old and a 12-year old. Nathan’s accomplishment is particularly impressive since he kicked in his stocking feet.

Age	Girls				Boys			
	Name	Parish	District	State	Name	Parish	District	State
9					Logan Fredritz	X	X	
10	Catherine Meagher	X	X		Dylan Baerga	X	X	
11	Gemma Boffetti	X	X		Jamie Osei-Manu	X		
12	Abigail Brier	X			Andrew Meagher	X		
13					Nathan Haller	X	X	X
14	Eliana Haller	X	X	X	Chase Alho	X		





Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest:

The Knights of Columbus are dedicated to bringing back the true spirit of Christmas and reminding families that the season is about more than Santa Claus and presents. Christmas has become a secular holiday for many, especially children. The Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest addresses this issue by allowing youth to engage their creative talent and imagination while understanding the true, spiritual meaning of Christmas.

Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade created posters focusing on the theme Keep Christ in Christmas. Each poster was evaluated by a panel which considered how clearly the theme was presented, how well the visuals conveyed the message, and how well the poster captured one's attention and caused one to reflect on the topic. Council winners progress to the District, State, and International levels.

Seven students entered posters in the contest. And what wonderful and creative posters they were. The Holy Family figured prominently in many of the posters. Other themes included the Star of Bethlehem, a bit of Latin (Jesus est Lux Vita Mundi), the Blessed Virgin and Angels, the Magi, and a child hugging Christ. All the posters demonstrated that our children really understand the true meaning of Christmas. After a difficult deliberation, our panel identified several posters as Council winners. Some of those identified went on to win honors at the District level as well! See chart on top right

Name	Grade	Council Winner	District Winner
Loretta Craine	1-2	X	
Samantha Laura	1-2	X	X
Logan Achile Fredritz	3-4	X	
Mary Beth Kolodziej	5-6	X	
Patrick Craine	5-6	X	X
Cecilia McCloskey	7-8	X	
Daniel Craine	7-8	X	

Shooting for Greatness: Free Throw Winners

Free Throw Championship:

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship allows students to demonstrate their skill at one of basketball's more important challenges – the free throw shot. The competition is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through Parish, District, State, and International competitions contingent on their scores. All students 9 to 14 years of age are eligible to participate and compete in their respective age and gender divisions.

Each contestant receives three warm-up tosses followed by 15 consecutive Free Throw attempts from an appropriate age-designated foul line. To break a tie, contestants take a second round of five free throws. This year the contest took place at Holy Family School in Woodbridge, VA.



Two students from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish participated in the contest and both were winners. Ayden Landers joined the 11 year old level and won at the Parish level. Abigail Brier participated at the 12 year old level and won at both the Parish and District levels. Abigail's score was sufficient to qualify her for competition at the State level.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights of Columbus thanks all those who participated in our contests and congratulates all our winners – academic, athletic, and artistic. The students demonstrated remarkable skills, and we look forward to seeing them again in future contests!