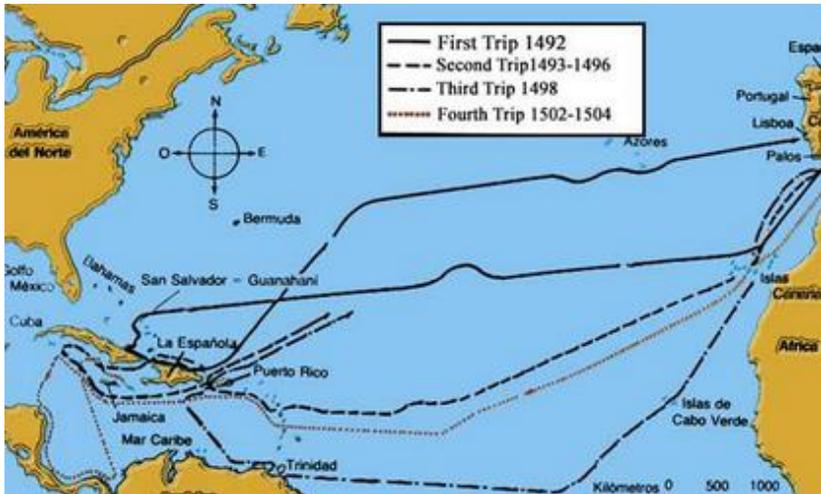




Our local chapter of the Knights of Columbus will be presenting several articles providing information about our founder Michael J. McGivney, our patron, Christopher Columbus along with other informational articles about the Knights of Columbus

The Voyages of Christopher Columbus

By Bob Marko



Christopher Columbus went to the Americas and back to Spain four times between 1492 and 1504. These trips marked the beginning of exploration and colonization of the American continents by the people of Europe.

Voyage #1 - The Passage to the West

Columbus had miscalculated the distance for the new western passage. He thought that only 2,300 miles separated the Canary Islands from Japan. The actual distance is closer to 12,000 miles. It is not certain which island Columbus landed on in the Bahamas, but most think it was

San Salvador or Samana Cay. The natives were eager to trade and the Spaniards, thinking they had found the Indies, called the natives Indians. He also explored some of Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

Columbus went back to Spain on January 15, 1493, leaving 39 men in the settlement he founded which he called La Navidad. When he got back to Spain, he gave Ferdinand and Isabella some gold nuggets and jewelry and told them he thought he had found islands that were close to Japan or China.

Voyage #2 - Dominica

Columbus set out later that same year, 1493, with instructions from the King and Queen to establish friendly relations with the native people. He arrived at Dominica on November 3, 1493 and after exploring for a while, went on to the Greater Antilles, landing in Puerto Rico. On November 22, Columbus traveled to La Navidad to find that his men, who he had left their eleven months before, had been killed. He established a new settlement on the coast of Hispaniola called Isabella. Later he revisited Cuba and explored Jamaica.

Voyage #3 - Trinidad and South America

He landed in Trinidad on July 31, 1498. He went on to explore South America and some of the islands. He returned to Hispaniola in 1500 to find the settlers there were not happy because they felt he lied to them about the abundance of riches.

Voyage #4 - Martinique and Central America

Columbus landed in Martinique on June 15, 1502 but continued on because a hurricane was coming. He was denied port at Santo Domingo and went on to the mouth of the Jaina River. He explored the islands off the coast of Honduras and later, went on to Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama. He and his men became stranded in Jamaica and stayed there a year. Columbus and his men then returned to Spain on November 7, 1504. His brother, Bartholomew, was with him on the last voyage.



He was determined to find a direct water route west from Europe to Asia, but he never did. Instead, he stumbled upon the Americas. His journeys marked the beginning of centuries of exploration and colonization of North and South America.