



# COMMUNION

Monthly Periodical of Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467  
265 Wellington Street. St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2S6

April 2024

**Come out to the April Business meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to hear from guest speaker Dr. John Hofhuis about the Hospice of Elgin**



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

**Brothers:** We are completing our Lenten preparation in anticipation of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ this Easter on Sunday March 31. Let us continue in our time for prayer and self-reflection.

As we enter April, we also prepare for nominations at our business meeting. Please be welcoming of any offers for service in our organization. We really need everyone to step up. Nominations will continue at the May Business meeting and end at that meeting with the elections. This Month, we will also have the State Convention. It will be attended by myself and **Brother Steve Wachowiak**.

I hope you all enjoyed the March Break and will continue on in supporting our council. We are having a fish dinner on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Club and will need help with set-up, serving and cleaning-up (see the post in this issue for additional details).

Fraternally Yours,  
Raymond Bernicky, Grand Knight, PGK ([gk1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk1467@ontariokofc.ca))

### Pope Francis' April Intention: For the role of women

*We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.*



**Father Ernie Deslippe** (1929 - 2011) served as Council chaplain for over 46 years. He was born in Harrow Ontario on March 20, 1929 and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John C. Cody on May 27, 1961 at St. Peter's Basilica, London Ontario. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Anthony of Padua parish in Harrow. Through his 50 years of ordained ministry, he served as associate pastor, Holy Angels' Parish, St. Thomas; and Administrator, St. Joseph Mission, Port Stanley. He was an inspiring priest, a leader with fortitude. Throughout his life he was a comforting power for disadvantaged people helping them to find a clear path to follow. He was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus who stressed that prayer is a vital tool. It helps to become confident, to see things in proper perspective, to give us vision, courage, strength and endurance, and to erode our impure motives.

He said holiness is not something we do for ourselves and instead something that God does in us. He invited us to open our hands to allow what we have to be shared, to flow out of us and we watch it multiplied. He understood that giving, not getting, is the generosity begets generosity. He pointed out that paying attention is one of the greatest compliments we can pay to another human being. Father Deslippe exemplified the mission of the Church to guide its followers to a fulfilling life. He was a great spiritual leader dedicated to prayer and always striving for virtue. Fr. Ernie was a strong advocate of learning and so Council awards a \$1000 scholarship in his name each year to a student that demonstrates the values and principles of the Gospel and is pursuing post-secondary education.

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) is a fraternal benefit society that was established in 1882 thanks to the efforts of **Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney**, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. The K of C has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and approaching 2 million members worldwide. The Order holds true to its founding principles of **Charity, Unity and Fraternity**.

**Bulletin submissions deadline: 25th of the month (Sept-May inclusive)**

## COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023-24

- Ray Bernicky, Grand Knight  
[gk1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk1467@ontariokofc.ca)
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- Harald Schraeder, Deputy GK
- Blair Ferguson, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- Jim (Simon) Vink, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- James Dewan, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Roy Esbaugh, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Steven Wachowiak, Trustee (1 yr.)
- John Kana, Inside Guard
- Francis Dadzie, Outside Guard
- Patrick Houston, Lecturer
- John Noonan, Insurance Agent / Fraternal Advisor

## ESTEEMED PARTNERS

- Alex Schadenberg, District Deputy
- Henry Poirier, Faithful Navigator, Bishop Cody Assembly
- Sandi Hoffer, President, Ladies Auxiliary
- Roy Esbaugh, President, Columbus Club

**COUNCIL BULLETIN:** Harald Schraeder ([hschran623@rogers.com](mailto:hschran623@rogers.com))

**WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR**  
([www.KofC1467.com](http://www.KofC1467.com)): Martin Evers  
([martin.evers53@gmail.com](mailto:martin.evers53@gmail.com))

**COLUMBUS CLUB MANAGER:**  
[vacant] (226-927-0375)



Join Us!

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/about-membership/index.html>

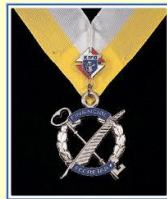


Council recently donated another \$2,000 and when added to last September's & January's \$1,500 delivered a total \$5,000 to STEGH Foundation's **Transforming Tomorrow Diagnostic Imaging Campaign**. Shown above are (L-R) **SK Bill Walker**, **Bobbi-Jo Gardiner** (STEGH Foundation Director of Development), **DGK Harald Schraeder** & **Brother Jeff Yurek** (Campaign Chair).

## Catholic 101:

Because Easter is the most important feast in the Christian calendar, even more important than Christmas, the **Easter season continues on for 50 days**, through the Ascension of Our Lord to Pentecost Sunday, seven full weeks after Easter Sunday! Indeed, for the purpose of fulfilling our Easter Duty (the requirement to receive Communion at least once during the Easter season), the Easter season extends a bit further, until Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. That final week isn't counted in the regular Easter season, though.

[From: ThoughtCo. "Why Easter Is the Longest Liturgical Season in the Catholic Church." Learn Religions, Apr. 5, 2023, [learnreligions.com/50-days-of-easter-3970732](https://www.learnreligions.com/50-days-of-easter-3970732).]



## FS CHAT

## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!!

Gilbert Berger, Ron Casier, Gary Clarke, Martin Evers, Rev. Adam Gabriel, Stephen Gooding, Donald Griffin, Rev. Graham Keep, Czeslaw Kozinski, Carl Kroepflin, Gerald Kupferschmidt, Lambert Kusters, Terry Kwapis, William Meglic, Nick Parachoniak, David Primeau, Kevin Rainsforth, Bernie Sheridan, Ed Szura, Alan Taylor, Paul Wolfs & Christopher Zwicker.

Regis Trudel, [FS1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:FS1467@ontariokofc.ca); 226-688-6060



## April Assignments

- Fri. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 12 **noon**: Al Baca & Tom Carr
- Tues. 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 12 **midnight**: Greg Reynaert & Steve Wachowiak

Please arrive 10 minutes before your assigned time.

*Did you know the Bingo crew generates well over half of Council's Charity giving each year? Thanks to Jackpot Time for giving Council the opportunity to raise funds to help the needy in our community.*

*Volunteers make the ordinary extraordinary.*

## Ladies Auxiliary

Happy Easter everyone. Soon the weather will be warm and the flowers will bloom.

We hope to see many of you out for our first meeting this spring. It will be held on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. and, as always, everyone is welcome. Please come out and support the Knights.

See you in May.

God Bless,  
Sandi Hoffer, President

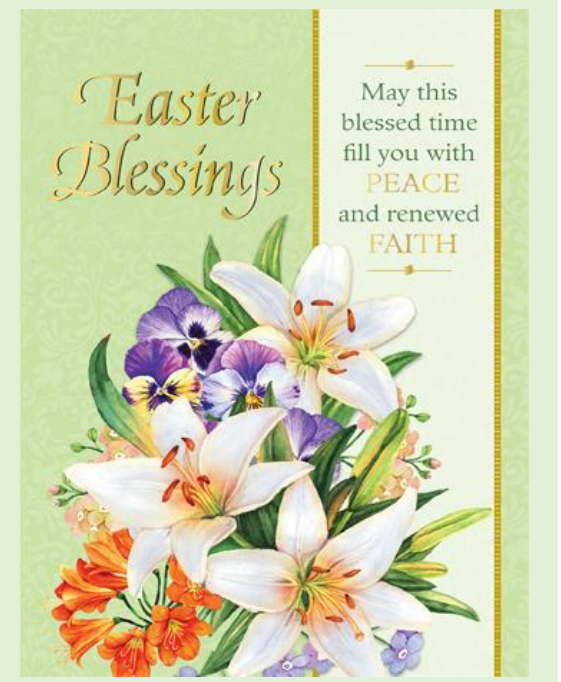
## MARK THE DATES APRIL EVENTS

All events take place at the Columbus Club at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg. (**Tues.**)
- 8<sup>th</sup>: FED Exec. Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Ladies Auxiliary
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club Directors
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Evening with Fr. John (6:30 pm, HA)
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Soup Brothers (**9:30 am**)
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Kinsmen Steak & Craft Beer dinner
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: FED Business Meeting

- May 4<sup>th</sup>: Fish Fry (poster inside)
- May 11<sup>th</sup>: Celtic Memories (poster inside)

Timely notices of events can be arranged by contacting PGK Martin Evers by email ([martin.evers53@gmail.com](mailto:martin.evers53@gmail.com)) and requesting an eblast. Please provide all the relevant information when making such request.



## Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Bro. Regis Trudel's niece Laura Church, Richard Cochrill, Gerry & Miriam Costello, SK Case Hoffer's niece Robin DeLeemans, Sue Dewan, Martin Evers, John Jakobi Sr, Carl & Barb Kroeplin, John Laverty, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Jack Sims, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, , Joan Vachon, Patricia (Pat) Vandevenne, Bro. SK Simon Vink's sister Jennifer Salomon, and Rob Weir. Please also pray for condolence for our widows and surviving family members.

Please pray for all our recently faithful departed, especially Bro. SK Blair Ferguson's mother-in-law **Mrs. Neva Carmichael**, that through God's mercy they be welcomed by Jesus and are at peaceful repose in Heaven. Please pray as well for our brother Knights and their families impacted by the war in the Ukraine.

# The Lord is Risen as he had said. He is Risen indeed.

I do not know about you, but we all need Easter joy. As we look on the Easter week, we all yearn to live in the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday and yet, if we are honest, there are many places along the road to Calvary that we often get stuck. The journey that Jesus and his disciples made from the upper room to the Mount of Olives and culminating with the Crucifixion at Golgotha we know ends in Easter Joy. It is a journey that not only Jesus did many years ago but one we all make today.

Each day of the Easter Triduum recognizes a step in the human journey to holiness and wholeness. The betrayal of community, evident even at the foundation of Holy Communion, is recognized on Holy Thursday. The centrality of Christ's passion, at the heart of our communal prayers, is embraced with the cross on Good Friday. *Light, Word, water, and Eucharist* are the four elements of the Easter Vigil which celebrates the essential journey of faith. The exultant celebrates the journey from darkness into light. The Word celebrates the journey from slavery to the heart of God's covenant. The rites of initiation and renewal of baptismal promises celebrate the journey of becoming integrated into the very life of Christ. While this journey is made complete by Jesus, in our lives we all find ourselves somewhere along the road.

## **"The Lord is Risen as he had said. He is Risen indeed."**

When I was asked to come to the Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes (just three days before the Priests Moves were announced) my goal was to 'Hit the ground running'. Yet, the gift of my 30-day retreat was that I realized I just needed to land first. I have spent my time since August just landing and trying to figure everything out. I have spent my time walking around the various edifices and structures that make up our family of parishes ... and there are a lot of them. Not just the dozen or so buildings but the staff, organizations and ministries that have built up over the years. As a pastor, I am interested in how sound the structures are and how they work together to serve the People of God.

Most importantly, I have paid attention to the beautiful organic vine of grace from which these structures sprung and which continues to give them life. Christ is present through the gift of the Spirit in so many ways in our family of parishes. The new members of the family make us remember our own journey of faith. They help us see, from the liturgies to works of charity, Christ at work in our midst.

## **"The Lord is Risen as he had said. He is Risen indeed."**

While these signs of new life are everywhere, I fear at times that Covid-19 has made us feel comfortable being isolated from the very community of Christ that gives us life. On the other hand, over time the very efficiency of our ministries and service may have supplanted the Gospel imperative to make new disciples and truly help people. "*We have always done it this way*", does not usually reflect Gospel Truth but merely a comfortable way of doing things; it is not open to new parishioners nor indeed the work of the Holy Spirit within us. My hope is that our parishes will continue to grow and serve the World but the only way that will happen is if we all continue to grow in holiness together in Christ.

## **"The Lord is Risen as he had said. He is Risen indeed."**

The Joy of Easter's resurrection is here in our community, yet we can get stuck because we do not wish to enter the passion of Christ. We may get stuck at Holy Thursday, trying, like Judas, to create a false safe comfortable community and end up instead betraying Christ Himself. We may indeed journey with Christ into the garden of agony but fall asleep or we may not bear our cross with Him. Only when we embrace community, with all its pitfalls and crosses, that we can begin to see the light that shines in the darkness, enter the covenant that gives true freedom, and receive the bread that gives life eternal.

## **"The Lord is Risen as he had said. He is Risen indeed."**

Sincerely,  
Fr. Peter Keller, Pastor  
Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes





# CANADIAN celtic choir

SONGS TO TOUCH YOUR HEART AND WARD YOUR SPIRIT

## Celtic Memories



Conductor: Paul Grambo - Accompanist: Stephen Hofowitz

**Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 7:30 pm**

(Doors at 7:00 pm)

Holy Angels Parish Church, 502 Talbot St, St Thomas, Ontario

**Tickets \$25**

Available from Holy Angels Church (519-631-3640)  
& online at [www.celticchoir.ca](http://www.celticchoir.ca)



[www.elginparishes.ca/holy-angels](http://www.elginparishes.ca/holy-angels)



Hosted by the Brothers of Father Ernie Deslippe Council 1467, Knights of Columbus.



SATURDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

FISH FRY

~ Featuring ~  
Lake Erie Yellow Perch

**COLUMBUS CLUB**

265 Wellington Street, St. Thomas

COCKTAILS: 4 PM

TAKE-OUT: 4:30-5 PM

DINNER: 5 - 6:30 PM



**TICKETS \$25**

Advance only while supplies last & available from:

- Columbus Club (519-631-2166)
- Ray Bernicky (519-207-3168)
- Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)
- Steve Wachowiak (226-984-9563)

**Celtic Memories** tickets are also  
available at the Club.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM

**SOUP BROTHERS:** The Soup Brothers made **71 containers (32-oz)** of **Tomato Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The next soup day is **Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club ... all are welcomed!

The Soup Brothers are in need of dish towels (new or used). If you have some to donate, please drop them off at the Columbus Club during a **Friday 'After 4'**. Thanks!!!

**ELIMINATION DRAW:** The winners of our \$50 weekly draws in March were:

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Ticket #61 Miranda Karn
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Ticket #98 Christian O'Connor
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Ticket #288 Adam Swales
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Ticket #78 Roy Esbaugh

Good luck for future weekly draws each Monday.

# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

I love the saints, not the football team but the actual saints of our church. I have always loved reading about their lives, their amazing travels and, sadly, often of their martyrdom. Many of these men and women went from a life of sin to one dedicated to Christ. Many traveled to unknown worlds, where they were often oppressed by peoples that didn't understand their language and had very different customs and morals. I have my favourites and they hold that position for various reasons. What can be said about all saints is that they were brave, determined and accomplished incredible things that changed our world. One of my favorites was called 'The Dumb Ox' by his contemporaries; they thought him dim-witted because he was shy and withdrawn. One of his teachers told students, "This dumb ox's bellowing will be heard around the world", an ox we call **Saint Thomas Aquinas**.



I'm far from an expert on STA, unlike those called *Thomistic Scholars*. His major work, *Summa Theologica*, is one I've attempted to read many times but have always become frustrated and developed a headache to boot. So how can STA be a favorite saint of mine? Well, I believe he changed the world in which we live. If not for this Dumb Ox, our lives would be very different; as most people know, this man lifted us out of the dark ages and gave us a society that cares for one another.

One of his 'isms', that I often use in conversations, was "**To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary; to one without faith, no explanation is possible.**" I don't think there is a truer statement. Imagine if we all took that to heart when confronted by someone with some standard argument against our faith; when, remembering STA, we'd shrug our shoulders, smile and simply walk away. Let's face it: Has anyone had words with a non-believer who then end it with, "*You're absolutely correct, my mistake, I'll see you at Mass on Sunday*"? So, instead of pounding our heads against a brick wall, it is through our behaviour and actions that we might change someone's mind. If they see us doing good deeds, helping those less fortunate, giving to the poor, isn't that more likely to change another's perception?

How did STA change the world? He lived in what we called the medieval period, a time when life was pretty bleak. War was so common and widespread it was considered normal. Becoming a soldier was an aspiration most families encouraged their sons to pursue. Medicine was based on absurd notions and anyone that prescribed or used herbs or other natural substances was condemned as doing the devil's work or shunned as a witch. I could go on but let's just say that thinking or reasoning wasn't a big part of life. The great thinkers like Aristotle or Socrates had been forgotten by most, and those few that could even read their works kept quiet about it. Thomas not only read the classics, he studied and incorporated old ideas in his own writings to reinforce the scriptures: He integrated natural thought and logic with sacred scripture. Thus, Thomas believed that humanity could learn more through their own efforts than being totally dependent on divine revelation as planted in our minds by God. He blended Greek philosophy with Christian doctrine by suggesting that natural thinking and observing nature were valid ways of understanding the truths pertaining to God; that God reveals himself through nature. I embrace this when I am sitting all alone up a tree in a tree-stand in the middle of the woods. I feel the sun's warmth, hear birds singing and squirrels chirping, notice creation all around and know that God's work is embracing me. I feel as close to God as when kneeling before the Altar at Holy Angels'.

I am, of course, simplifying STA's teachings. As I said, I've tried to read his work many times and thought I'd be better off playing with Lego. It's complicated and for the most part a tough read (you should know STA is mandatory reading when studying for the priesthood). If I had to say why, it would be his explanation on the trinity and the nature of sin, and his **five statements of divine qualities**, namely: 1) God is simple, 2) God is Perfect, 3) God is infinite, 4) God is immutable, and 5) God is one. I could fill many future issues of Communion attempting to explain those statements. Perhaps if you have nothing going on one night, give 'STA 5 statements' a google search and broaden the horizons of your faith. I may joke about his work being hard to understand but there are a host of people that has written extensively on his writings since his passing to share their interpretations of his theories ... you'll find plenty on-line.

Earlier, I said STA changed the world. How so? Well, a great deal of our Catholic theology came about from

[continued]

[*St. Thomas Aquinas continued*]

his writings. For example, he asserted, “Good is to be done, evil is to be avoided.” While sounding pretty obvious to us today, in his time people knowingly did evil and then bought indulgences (forgiveness) or set about to balance the scales by, for example, going to war to participate in slaughtering, raping and pillaging, and then atoning upon return by walking barefoot to a local shrine ... bing-bang, all is better. This didn't sit well with STA, that's not avoiding evil, that's embracing it.

He wrote a great deal about cause and effect, such as when the state or government creates the good of social order by setting out clear rules, rights and duties for the people (cause) which creates an endowment for people to flourish and live a life free from risk of violence and instability (effect). Everyone's welfare depends on how well the government behaves; the better it does, so will its people prosper.

Thomas Aquinas favoured a monarchy. While he believed in the divine rights of kingly authority, he despised tyranny. He understood that absolute power corrupts absolutely. At his time, most countries operated under a monarchy but STAs study of ancient philosophy gave him an understanding of democracy before it existed. His ideal society was one with a king but one who listened to a representative body of the population (basically what England operated under for many years). The ideal king would follow the teachings of Christ, and follow a set of laws that benefited the common man.

In my opinion, STA's theories brought about social work, welfare, children's aid, even socialized medicine. I'm pretty sure Tommy Douglas didn't have STA in mind when he developed Canada's medical system but it follows his writings. Looking after one another, caring for the least fortunate and making sure citizens are protected and not living in fear are all Thomistic ideals. I don't know if I've explained STA and his ideas to you but I hope I sparked an interest in this Doctor of our church and the idea of why schools, libraries and hospitals are named after this incredible man. In closing, I'll leave you with a couple of STA's sayings:

- Love takes up where knowledge leaves off.
- The things we tell others tell who we are.
- Sorrow can be alleviated by a good sleep, a good bath and a glass of good wine.

Fraternally,  
Blair Ferguson, Faith Director



The young ladies of the **St. Thomas Express** U16 women's competitive volleyball team have been helping out and raising spirits as they bus tables at recent Council dinners while also accepting donations to offset costs to travel to a national tournament in Edmonton this spring. Special recognition is due **Bro. Steve Wachowiak** who matched donations collected at the dinner.

Pictured here are (L-R): **Addison, Bella, Kali, Ruby, Violet & Abbie.**  
Thanks Ladies and continued best wishes for every success!!

# Reflection



I find that one of the benefits of composing a monthly Reflection article is that it compels me to dive into Scripture. As we celebrate the risen Christ, I thought I would share with you one timely part of the Gospels that I have long struggled with: **The Walk to Emmaus** (Luke 24:13-35).

Luke gives an account of two disciples, Cleopas and another unnamed, lamenting, while walking to the village of Emmaus, everything that had just happened three days ago in Jerusalem. Along the way, the recently risen Jesus joined them but they didn't recognize Him (*"their eyes were kept from recognizing him"*). He asked what they were discussing and Cleopas, understandably distressed and likely using a condescending tone, said, *"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"*

Jesus (seemingly 'playing dumb') replied with *"What things?"*, which invited the disciples to recount the details *"concerning Jesus of Nazareth" ...* who they still didn't recognize right in front of them. Jesus heard them give a pretty accurate account, including how the women told everyone they'd *"seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive"*, moreover that *"some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."* Upon receiving their account, Jesus chastised them, saying, *"O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"*, and then proceeded to subject them to a remedial class in all the scriptures that referenced Him. It's about here that we may recall that Emmaus was *"about seven miles from Jerusalem" ...* plenty of time for Jesus to catch them up on Old Testament highlights.

One presumes Jesus chastised with a smile lest one of them take a shot at Him. A safe presumption it turns out as they then implored Him to hang out with them longer (*"Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent"*). He did and conducted His second Eucharist upon which *"their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished out of their sight."* After which (and having been personally evangelized by Jesus Himself), they hie-tailed it back to Jerusalem to tell the Apostles what they'd experienced as witnesses to the risen Lord.

So, how literally do you think Luke intended us to take his gospel? While you may reflect on that, I will share with you my key take-away, namely that he ended the story with: *"they [Cleopas and the other] told [the Apostles huddled in the upstairs room] what had happened on the road, and how **He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.**"* How He was known to them through participation in the Eucharist. Kind of makes you want to go to mass, eh? So, while Luke casts Jesus as some sort of ghost appearing and vanishing here, there and elsewhere before He finally ascends to heaven, that key message to know Jesus, God, through participation *"in the breaking of the bread"* may shed new light on what it means to be a Catholic for you as it did me. As you know, it is essential that we gather together in His memory as we act individually to give glory to His name in our daily lives.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, DGK, PGK

**BIBLICAL 'EXTRAS':** There are a lot of people mentioned in scripture; many named, others not. Take the story above for example, where we're introduced to **Cleopas** and his unnamed companion. There are also the 'extras' referred to in Mark's account of the betrayal of Jesus (14:47-52), *"But **one of those who stood by** drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus said to them, *"Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."* And they all forsook Him, and fled. And **a young man followed Him**, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked."*

The one that cut off the slave's ear we know to be **Simon Peter** (per John 18:10). While the other one (the 'streaker') is never identified by any of the Evangelists, my study Bible tells me that tradition holds that he may have been **Mark**, the writer of that Gospel. As the kids would say, you never know what other 'easter eggs' are planted in the Bible. Go ahead, see how many you can find.



# ICYMI

A growing conversation among **Holy Angels' parishioners** about its financial situation and the condition of the building led to a parishioners' meeting being held at the church on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> where the situation was clarified. A **Summary Report** has been distributed at the church and can be viewed at: [https://files.ecatholic.com/21747/documents/2024/3/DOC\\_20240312\\_HA\\_Summary\\_final.docx?t=1710518275000](https://files.ecatholic.com/21747/documents/2024/3/DOC_20240312_HA_Summary_final.docx?t=1710518275000).

The challenge they face is to find a way to pay off a significant amount of debt and then to raise 70% of the funds necessary to undertake any new works that have been itemized and costed out to a very significant total in their own right. Their challenge exists even as offertory collections revenue (the main income for the church by far) is only starting to recover to pre-pandemic levels ... when it was already trending downwards or being deteriorated by the impact of inflation. Fundraising in earnest will soon commence to address this challenge at Holy Angels' and as Knights we will respond to assist as best we can. Please engage the Pastoral Team for more information and to seek guidance on how best to contribute to restoring Holy Angels' capacity to grow the faith. We will update progress on meeting the challenge in future issues of Communion.

## Catholic Corner

Happy Holy week and a very Blessed and Faithful Easter. How are you doing with your Lenten season? Truthfully, I've struggled, but I haven't given up and I hope you haven't either. Always remember, God is a loving God, and Lent is the season for forgiveness! I take great solace knowing that no matter how many times I turn my back on God, through my thoughts and actions, He is always there still walking with me. As soon as I am ready to turn back to face him and ask for forgiveness, I am forgiven. I know the basis of our religion is to love, to be charitable and to forgive even when life's circumstances make it difficult. I also have another forgiving, loving, charitable army walking with me and that is my Brother Knights. I am my brother's keeper and they mine! (Gen 4:9)

I joined the K of C because I felt there had to be more to my faith than going to church on Sundays, praying, fasting, giving up chocolate for 40 days and believing in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I felt a calling to live out my faith beliefs and the Knights, a group of like-minded Catholic men, seemed like a great place to start. As mentioned previously, I love volunteering and helping others as it makes me feel closer to Jesus. I also see the face of Jesus and feel his love in the faces of my fellow Brothers volunteering as well. This has been a bonus that I never knew could exist. My brothers have been there to support me and my family when we need it, be it through prayer or reaching out to check on me. I have come to appreciate the value of my brothers and the strength in brotherhood. We, as Catholic men, need each other and I hope I can be there for my brothers like they have been for me. As John says in his gospel, "***This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.***" (1 John 3:16).

Lent is a time for Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. This is what I started off Lent attempting instead of giving up items of favour. Donating to those in need, raising funds, visiting the sick or shut-ins, are easier to do and as I mentioned, let me see the face of Jesus in others. The spiritual works can be much more difficult. Bearing patience of those who have wronged us, forgiving offenses, counselling the doubtful, can try our human will and capacity. These are, however, at the very foundation of mercy and love from our saviour. As difficult as they can be to do, I draw strength working together and leaning on my brothers. As the saying goes, a body united is stronger than the sum of its parts and I have seen this firsthand in the incredible men that I am proud to call brothers! Together, we can lift each other up, support each other physically and spiritually as a brotherhood.

My fellow brothers, your spouses and widows, please know that with Lent ending and the Easter Season passing us by my works of Spiritual and Corporal Mercy will continue! If you see me in church or in the community, please stop, say hi and let me know how you truly are and how I can help if necessary. Together we got this, no matter what "this" is, and you are never alone! Call me (519-933-1593) when you need to! I am my brothers keeper and it is my privilege to do so. May God Bless you and keep you! Happy Easter Everyone!

Yours faithfully in service to one and all!  
SK Rob Weir

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER





# The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / April 2024

Membership consists of Sir Knights from Councils 1467 & 4189



Thank you to SK **Roy Esbaugh** for decorating and setting up the tables for our **St. Patrick's Day** pot luck supper on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Club. Everyone had a great time and were well fed. The sing-along of Irish songs with our guitarist was a warm welcome as well.

Please remember that our April Meeting is nominations for next year's executive. The election of Officers will be conducted at the May meeting.

We have one applicant for joining our Assembly at this time. It would be nice if we had a couple more. See what you can do!!

Fraternally,  
SK Henry Poirier FN, PGK, PFN, PDD



Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 Deputy Grand Knight Harald Schraeder (right) accepting on behalf of Council the **Certificate of Appreciation** awarded by the Salvation Army to **SK Don Nolan** at the Army's recent volunteer appreciation evening.

SK Don has been coordinating Knights' numerous 2-hr volunteer shifts at **Christmas Kettles** for several years. Through his leadership, we have helped raise thousands for the Army's charitable work in St. Thomas and area. The certificate acknowledged that Knights' shifts collected **\$7,225.85** during the 2023 campaign.

SK Don's commitment to Faith In Action is an inspiration to all his brothers. Thanks!

**For These We Pray:** Maurice Brennan, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Dino DeAngelo, Case Hoffer, James Lumley, Barry MacMillan, Doug Pardey, Alan Taylor, Joan Vachon, as well as for our deceased members, their spouses and families, and especially for **Lady Norma Marie Roach**, widow of the late SK Bert Roach, who we pray has been embraced by God in Heaven and been reunited with Bert.

**Faithful Friar** Fr. Peter Keller

**Navigator** Henry Poirier

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# HAPPY EASTER

Fraternally, John P. Noonan, FIC, CPCA, 519-870-9675; [john.noonan@kofc.org](mailto:john.noonan@kofc.org)



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Brothers & Sir Knights:

I really don't have a lot to report for this month's newsletter other than, as I have been pounding into our members, the importance of participating in the events that are scheduled to occur at the Columbus Club. I must say that I am quite proud of the turnouts we have been getting at the dinners that have been put on. I look around and see many faces that I recognize. That really puts a smile on my face. We not only raise money for the Knights' charities but each event also puts money into the Columbus Club's coffers.

There will be another Perch dinner coming up on May 4<sup>th</sup>, one of the more popular dinners that we host. Tickets are available at the hall and you can pick them up Fridays at our 'After 4' social and meat draw (I'm usually there by 3:30 p.m.). While take-out will be available, I recommend dining in as it is more of a social event that allows everyone to meet and greet and reconnect and make acquaintances with old friends and new. The dinners always sell out, so don't delay getting your tickets.

The Club will be hosting the **Kinsmen Craft Beer & Steak Dinner** again this year on **April 20<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are \$40 each and anybody interested can please contact me (519- 694 5137). Act fast since it is also always sold-out.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the Columbus Club Executive Directors, I wish all of you a Blessed and Happy Easter

Fraternally,  
Sir Knight Roy Esbaugh, President

**HELP NEEDED**

The **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario** (AGCO) has reminded license holders that, in addition to bar tenders, volunteers that sell drink tickets for events at licensed facilities such as the Columbus Club require **Smart Serve Certification**. Training is available online from the AGCO and the certification will be good for several years. Please consider getting involved to support your Columbus Club and **contact Brother Joe Fleming (519-633-0335) if you would be willing to become Smart Served!**



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## April 2024 Council Meeting Message

We spend six weeks each year during Lent fasting, praying and almsgiving. We hope to unite our fasting and praying with Jesus' 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert, to focus on preparing both our inner and outer selves to celebrate the great Easter feast. We give alms to identify with that great sacrifice of God giving His only begotten Son. With Easter on March 31 this year, I hope this finds that you had a very blessed celebration of this central Christian feast! Easter certainly brings thoughts of newness and renewal. We hope our fasting, praying and almsgiving renews our closeness to God.

As Spring settles in, I observe the many rituals of the season. I think of newness and renewal. Outside beds are prepared for new planting. I see the new blossoms on trees and flowers reaching full bloom, lengthening of daylight, and a rush of sounds and sights not seen for many months. Schoolchildren begin to count down the days to summer vacation. Parents do the same counting down...perhaps without the joy of the children!

Spring seems to elicit looking forward.

As I look forward this Spring, I am renewed in my mission to meet with my members. I want to keep you apprised of any changes you might want to consider in your insurance program. I hope you will keep me apprised of any changes in your circumstances. Adjustments can be made to make sure that you are on the path to reach your goals.

The Order offers a diverse array of products and services to help you do that. Together we can complete or update your financial needs analysis. This can show where you stand and helps discover any gaps in protection you might have. Our products: life insurance, retirement annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance, are our core products to help protect you and your family.

I'll call on you soon to see if it makes sense to arrange for a meeting.

Vivat Jesus!

John P. Noonan, FIC, CPCA, 519-870-9675; [john.noonan@kofc.org](mailto:john.noonan@kofc.org)