



# COMMUNION

Monthly Periodical of Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 (est. 1935)  
265 Wellington Street. St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2S6

December 2024



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

*Every Who Down in Whoville Liked Christmas a lot ... / But the Grinch, who lived just north of Whoville, Did NOT! / The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season! / Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason. / It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right. / It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight. / But I think that the most likely reason of all, / May have been that his heart was two sizes too small.*

Every year at about this time (after 'Black Friday' & pre-Advent) I recall those opening lines to Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and am haunted by the thought: *Am I a Grinch?* Truth be told: *Maybe*. Any why? Well, probably because I find myself increasingly distracted from the *reason for the season* by the effects of the hyper-commercialization that we're subjected to each year and that kicks off with incessant Black Friday 'sales' adverts. Honestly, it's as if the stress of juggling family members' schedules and commitments to other families to arrange 'Christmas dinner', which may occur once or several times over the last week or so of December, wasn't enough to deflate the joy we should be experiencing. We're mindful too that the Christmas season can be an especially sad time for those 'survivors' of families broken by irreconcilable disputes or alone and isolated as friends, family and extended relatives have already passed away. Please pray for them (better yet, call or visit).

I am indeed blessed that I can give thanks each year as I anticipate Midnight Mass and getting my annual fix of *Bro. Jerry Collins' O, Holy Night* ... which re-inflates my heart and allows me to enjoy and appreciate the reactions of my loved ones upon opening their gifts (regardless of how soon they may appear as a Marketplace listing). The early morning silence following mass also allows me to reflect on the best gift you and I ever got: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). Amen to that. I will try and pay that gift forward, so to speak, by reaching out to a few brothers and to others I know may need to hear a fraternal voice that assures them that someone else remembers the reason for the season. If the phone is busy when I call, I pray that it might be you on the line to them instead.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



**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 world-wide. 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 2024-25

- Harald Schraeder, Grand Knight  
[gk1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk1467@ontariokofc.ca)
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- John Kana, Deputy GK
- Blair Ferguson, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- Donald Henry, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- Armand Matte, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Jim Dewan, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Roy Esbaugh, Trustee (1 yr.)
- Michael Kilborn, Inside Guard
- David Primeau, Outside Guard
- Patrick Houston, Lecturer
- John Noonan, Insurance Agent / Fraternal Advisor

## ESTEEMED PARTNERS

- Raymond Bernicky, District Deputy
- Simon Vink, 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 LINK:** [kofc1467](http://kofc1467)

**SITE ADMIN:** [martin.evers53@gmail.com](mailto:martin.evers53@gmail.com)

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

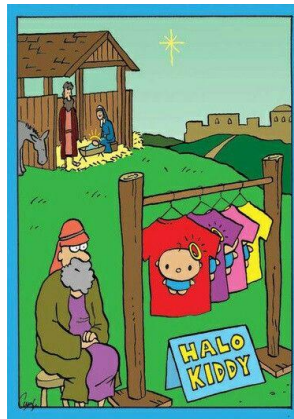


# Join Us!

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



**SK Dennis Walters & FN Simon Vink representing Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council & Bishop John C. Cody Assembly at the Wreath laying ceremony during St. Thomas' Remembrance Day services.**



## FS CHAT

## DUES ARE DUE

The Fraternal Dues Notices for 2025 will be sent out by mail on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Prompt payment will be greatly appreciated and is due by January 15, 2025. Membership Cards for 2025 will be available at all Business Meetings. **NOTE: Every Brother whose payment is received by the due date will be entered into a draw for a FREE MEMBERSHIP for 2026!**

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

Christien Aubry, Timothy Buchanan, Gerald Costello, Thomas Hovorka, Case Hoffer, Richard Kay, Ronald Lapchinski, Douglas Manners, Walter Molinaro, Michael O'Dea, Dan O'Connor, Gordon Ryan, William Walker & Robert Weir.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2025!

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





## December Assignments

- 11<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) 8 – 10 p.m.: Jim Dewan & Steve Wachowiak
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Tues.) 10 – 12 (noon): Jim Coveny & Tom Carr

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

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful, faith filled ladies who have been such a support to the Ladies Auxiliary and the Knights of Columbus for many years. You have given so much and it has been a blessing to have severed as your President.

I wish all of you blessed Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you always.

Sincerely,  
Sandi Hoffer, President

## MARK THE DATES DECEMBER EVENTS

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

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Knights & Ladies Christmas Dinner
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 pm SA**)
- 9<sup>th</sup>: FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club Directors
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Family NYE Party (**doors open 6 pm**)

**N.B. There will not be a Soup Day or Council Business meeting in December.**

### Coming up in the new year:

**January 31<sup>st</sup>:** Turkey Raffle Draw (4 p.m. @ Club)

**February 9<sup>th</sup>:** Knights-sponsored Public Skate at Joe Thorton Arena (1:15 – 2:45 p.m.)

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Knights-sponsored St. Thomas Stars game



## Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Gary Beckwith, Maurice Brennan, Ron & Barry Buchanan, William (Bill) Bynsdorp, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Richard Cochrill, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Dino DeAngelo, Case Hoffer's niece Robin DeLeemans, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin Evers, Jean Goddeeris, Adam Hicknell's Oma, John Jakobi Sr, Fr. Johnson's mother, Jim Kennedy's wife Pauline, Carl & Barb Kroeplin, John Laverty, Michael Lukasik, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Larry McCaffery as well as his relatives Leo and Evie, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Jack Sims, Peter Sowinski, Darryl Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, John Thomas, Joe Vachon's wife Joan, Alois (Louie) Van Hooydonk, Steve Wachowiak, Rob & Lisa Weir, & Priests and ERCFP staff. Please also pray for condolence for our widows and surviving family members.

Please pray for all our recently faithful departed, especially **SK Bro. Benardus (Ben) Veel**, **SK Malcom Beckwith & Ivy Flynn**, widow of Bro. Jim, 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.

# BISHOP FABBRO'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ... 2011:

*[ed.: I found this while browsing the web for an appropriate seasonal message ... It's over a decade old but I think you'll agree the themes still resonant today. I also think it's a nice complement to Brother Rob Weir's article in this issue. Enjoy!]*

Every year, I am always amazed that Christmas is still able to inspire us. Christmas touches our hearts and brings out the best in us. It is at Christmas that the poor, the homeless, those who are dependent on food banks, those who suffer from mental illnesses -- those who are usually invisible to us - become visible. We become aware of them, and aware of their needs. We want to do something for them. At this time of year, I see so many people, so many churches and so many organizations reaching out to those in need.

At Christmas, Christians celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The Word of God takes on our human nature. God takes on the weakness and frailty of our human condition. Jesus was born of Mary; he came to us as an infant under very humble circumstances. Jesus grew up and lived among us. Jesus showed us that God cares for us, especially when we are in need. Jesus showed us that God cares for the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the suffering. For us Christians, the Christmas message is that FAITH in Jesus changes us. As we draw closer to Jesus, we begin to see the world as he does and we begin to think and feel and act as he would. We know that the poor and the needy are important to Jesus. The same is true of us, his followers -- the poor and needy are important to us.

The mystery of the Incarnation is that God came down from heaven to become one with us. God came to be with us in our human struggles. But that is only the beginning. God took on our human nature to give us a share in his own divine nature. His grace forgives our sins, but it also transforms us and makes us entirely new. With his grace, we become children of God. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We also celebrate our own birth into this new life. **It is faith that opens us to this wonderful transformation. Faith opens us to the power of God's grace. It enables us to become more like Christ.** Christmas is a special time, a time to be with family and friends. At Christmas, many people will come to church. I invite everyone to join us in our churches and experience the wonder and awe as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for a blessed Christmas to you. May you experience the joy and peace that our Saviour brings us.

Most Reverend Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London



A bevy of Brothers attended a special event at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer, on November 8<sup>th</sup> to participate in the awarding of a plaque to SK Jim Lumley in recognition of his many years of service to Council and community.





Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 presents ...

# TURKEY RAFFLE 2024-25

City of St. Thomas  
Raffle Permit # M875135

The St. Thomas Knights are raising funds for their charitable mission in our city.

**Tickets are \$5 each ... Only 250 available!!!**

Tickets available, while supplies last, from:

Columbus Club (519-631-2166) / Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)

Steve Wachowiak (226-984-9563) / Roy Ewart (519-719-7693)

Fric's Car Repair (253 Edward Street, 519-631-6042)

Ron's Auto Service (255 Edward Street, 519-633-6130)

~ Draws will take place the Columbus Club at 4 p.m. on Friday Jan. 31, 2025 ~



## Win a \$50 gift certificate

Five (5) certificates will be awarded to lucky winners redeemable for any of the many diverse turkey products available at the Turkey Shoppe, located at Oegema Turkey Farms, Talbotville



FN Simon Vink presenting SK Steve Wachowiak his certificate upon joining the Bishop John C. Cody Assembly.



SK Jim Dewan, Council Bingo Coordinator, awarding Council's \$2,500 donation to Laura Chew, Exec. Dir. Choose Life Elgin.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Remember 'Giving Tuesday' (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) and consider making a personal donation to any of the many charitable organizations in our city.

**SOUP BROTHERS:** The Soup Brothers made **87 containers (32-oz) of Butternut Squash Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The next soup day is **Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club.

**115<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 will be marking its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2025. **Bro. Martin Evers** ([martin.evers53@gmail.com](mailto:martin.evers53@gmail.com)) is establishing a team to coordinate a celebratory event and invites interested brothers to join the team. Further details will be shared when available.

**ELIMINATION DRAW:** Weekly draws, scheduled to **begin Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, will continue until the main draw & dinner on Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Columbus Club.

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS:** Council's KCIC campaign has begun with the installation of the **KCIC-themed billboard** at Holy Angels on Talbot Street, with thanks to **FS Regis Trudel** who made the arrangements through Van Pelts.

**GRACE CAFÉ CHRISTMAS DINNER:** **SK Otis Clifton** and his team will be cooking turkeys for the café's Christmas event Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>. **Brother Peter O'Donnell** will be entertaining on the 14<sup>th</sup> for the café's anniversary.

# Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All Men

This Christmas it has fallen to my wife and I to host Christmas dinner.



Every year we take turns to have everyone over for a big turkey dinner. This year, Linda and I get to do double duty as we're having her brother and wife, and their two children and their spouses over on Christmas day. Then, on Boxing Day my one remaining brother and one remaining sister and their spouses, as well as my nephew with his wife and children ... a full house both days. I've already started planning on dinner and desserts, etc. All of this planning and getting the house in order makes me regret I haven't thought much about the real meaning behind this impending celebration. Given all of the hustle and bustle, it's easy for the birth of Christ to get lost in our hectic lives. I'm sure we all have our own methods of keeping the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts and minds. I'll share with you some points in history where December 25<sup>th</sup> saw mankind embrace the true meaning of God's love and bring forth (or at least try) change.

In 1915, the First World War had been raging for a year. Everyone on both sides had thought they'd be back home by then but were instead locked in a stalemate, only yards away from where they had begun in 1914. The men on both sides had been living in trenches full of muck, mud, blood, rats and vermin for almost a year and already the world had lost 6 million souls both military and civilian. The average soldier on either side wouldn't have been able to locate Sarajevo on a map and likely never heard of the Arch Duke and his wife whose assassinations had sparked the war. It's not that the average 'Tommy' hated the opposing 'Fritz' and yet they'd grown very accustomed to killing one another. As I've told you before, they set aside their human emotions and became automaton zombie killers and only on account of an officer's order. When December 25<sup>th</sup> came to the trenches of the **British Expeditionary Force** (BEF) and the **Canadian Expeditionary Force** (CEF), the men desired to create a Christmas feast of their own. They pooled their resources (everyone had care parcels from home) as the Canadians shared homemade strawberry jam or maple syrup with their British mates in exchange for Kippers (yuk). Men who had an extra pair of knitted socks gave a pair to those who did not. It always seemed that some Canadian had a harmonica and some Brit had a squeezebox and so combined they would play tunes that the other men sang along to and often enough made men laugh as the lyrics of wartime songs were very racy. As the men of the Dominion sat down to enjoy their meal and their tot of rum, they heard something no one had heard in a year: silence; no guns, no bombs, no men crying out for their mothers, just quiet. What a gift this seemed. Then, through the silence, came the sound of **Silent Night**, being sung in the language it was written in, as their German enemy had also been celebrating Christmas complete with an evergreen tree propped on the edge of their trench. They'd been enjoying their extra ration of schnapps. When they finished, the English in return sang **I Saw Three Ships** followed by a group of Scots singing **Auld Lang Syne**. A lone German soldier bravely stood up in no man's land and held out a loaf of pumpernickel bread to the men in the opposing trench. A man on our side stood up to accept the offer and before long men on both sides were up and shaking hands with each other, exchanging uniform buttons and cap badges, and rum for schnapps. A football (soccer ball) appeared and a game broke out as laughing and singing continued. The sounds of life had replaced the sounds of death. While all of this happened spontaneously, it wasn't too long sadly before officers on both sides got wind of what was going on and came and put an end to it. After all, where would they be if the men became friends with one another? It's very difficult to wage a war when the men refuse to kill each other. What other power than God's love could have inspired this event? **God sent His son Jesus to be born among us out of love and on Christmas Day in 1915 His love shone brightly in the hearts of those British, Canadian and German soldiers.** Because of the day, they put down their guns and offered each other friendship and love of their fellow man. The men who took part in that Christmas day armistice would speak of it well into their old age and when they did a smile would come across their face and tears would show in their eyes. Could that event be repeated today should Russian and Ukrainian soldiers set down their guns to celebrate the birth of Christ together? I think not, even while both countries profess to be either Eastern Orthodox or followers of the Latin Church, not enough of those involved truly believe in our Savior. Both leaders will bend a knee and receive the Eucharist when the cameras are rolling, but in my mind it's a photo op. I won't even mention the war that rages where Christ once walked and preached his message of love, where today his teachings are trampled underfoot in the Holy Land.

Now, I'm going to take you way back in time, to the 5<sup>th</sup> century when the known world was teetering between paganism and Christianity. The Franks were a tribe of people that covered present day Germany, France, south into the Italian peninsula and as far north as Switzerland. The Franks were ruled by a man named **Clovis**, a devout pagan who worshiped Jupiter and Mercury. He was married to a Burgundian princess named **Clotilde**, a follower of the Latin church-Catholic. Clotilde held incredible sway over her husband and while she constantly begged him to convert, he held out waiting to be convinced of her god's power. She told him that Jesus wasn't about power but instead professed love, peace and kindness; not things that 5<sup>th</sup> century rulers held in high regard when focused on war and conquest. To cut a long story short: Clovis, on the eve of an upcoming battle at a place called **Tolbiac**, prayed to Jesus to allow him to vanquish his foe. In the morning, the Franks crushed their enemy which convinced Clovis of the power of his wife's god and on December 25<sup>th</sup> in the year 508, Clovis, king of the Franks, was baptized into the Catholic faith.

[continued]



[Peace on Earth cont'd]

What's Clovis' conversion got to do with us today? You may think nothing on account that Clovis's conversion was misguided ('paganistic') and you're probably correct. Nevertheless, his baptism did achieve something that changed the course of history since, if he didn't, the chances are you wouldn't be reading this as a Catholic. You see, in those days when a king changed his religion his entire court followed suit in order to stay in his 'good books'. As such, every prince, duke, baron or other noble sought to become baptized and that called for catechists and priests to come into the lands of the Franks to offer instruction and bestow the sacrament. This further required churches to be built. A 'chain reaction' of sorts therefore followed Clovis' conversion and like the ripples in a pond, it spread. While a lot of the early converts probably held onto their old beliefs, their children became true believers and their children even more so, and so on and so on, until you had places like Reims and Notre Dame being built in the land of the Franks, the culmination of a ripple started on a Christmas day.

Throughout history many other rulers chose Christmas day to be the day of baptism and conversion, including the great **Charlemagne** in 800 and **William the Conqueror** in 1066 (both chose Christmas as the day to be crowned as rulers of their nations). These men of war and violence saw the importance of the day and bent their knees to the small child born in a manger in Bethlehem. I hope you can see that these tales I've told you show that the power of the love of Christ can overcome the biggest obstacles this world can throw in its way. Surely, the day that God chose to send His love to earth, with the birth of His Son, can overcome the problems this modern world can put in our way.

The true meaning of Christmas can overcome the demands of family and the commercialization of Christmas. It can likewise overcome, even flourish, in a society that refuses the teachings of Jesus and prohibits His presence in its schools. Christ's love and the true meaning of Christmas can overcome all of this and so much more, but it's going to take us to make sure it does. We need to say '**Merry Christmas**' to people we meet. We can ensure the presence of Christ in our homes when family comes to visit (I'm sure I'm not the only one who, as a Catholic, is a minority in his own family). We can show our love of our neighbors and fellow man even when it's hard to do. While there's a lot of very needy people out in our community, remember '**talk is cheap**' and '**actions speak louder than words**'. There are people who are lonely and Christmas time often intensifies that loneliness so let's all visit one person who is alone or invite them into your home for Christmas with your family. What a great way to express our belief that Christ came into this world to bring joy into it and replace hatred with true love. Let's spread the joy of Christ's birth wherever we go! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Let's not forget Peace; pray for peace.

Fraternally,  
SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

## POPPY CAMPAIGN 2024

As November came to a close, I wanted to send out a big Thank You to the following fellow Knights who so willingly gave of their time to help out with the campaign this year:

<b>Dennis Collins</b>	<b>Wayne Elliott</b>	<b>Roy Ewart</b>	<b>Joe Fleming</b>	<b>Tom Hovorka</b>
<b>John Kana</b>	<b>Wayne Krosnicki</b>	<b>Ron Lapchinski</b>	<b>Bernie Sheridan</b>	<b>Oscar Sunil</b>
<b>Bill Walker</b>	<b>Paul Wolfs</b>			

Your help is greatly appreciated.

SK Don Nolan, 2024 Poppy Campaign Co-ordinator



## CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN

Tree sales began on November 29<sup>th</sup>. We still have openings for volunteers to sign up for a 2-hour sales shift during our usual hours of operation between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. If you are able to take a few sales shifts, please contact **Bro. Patrick Houston** (519-633-0724; [pghouston@sympatico.ca](mailto:pghouston@sympatico.ca)). Traditionally we have sold out our Christmas trees in 14-17 days. This initiative, which has run for several decades, is a great opportunity for some fellowship and involvement for all brother Knights and their families. We are looking forward to having another successful tree campaign in 2024.

# Reflection

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that *When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."* (CCC 524)

In so doing, it clarifies the dual purpose of our Advent observations: to prepare ourselves to celebrate Jesus' birth (His first coming), and to renew our faith for His second. The secular world facilitates our preparation, at least that of our children, by producing calendars that reward their daily preparations with chocolates or other treats. While one supposes an appropriate advent calendar for adults would reveal a daily reading, they don't seem to be stocked at local stores. But, and in lieu of a calendar bestowing daily chocolates, we have the **Advent Wreath** to mark time. Here follows a brief refresher on its significance.<sup>1</sup>

The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ. The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years that symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Savior, from Adam and Eve to Jesus as foretold in the Old Testament.

Violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent ('little Lent') is the season where we spiritually wait in our darkness with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth (and now as we await his promised return.<sup>2</sup>

During the first two weeks of Advent, we light the first two purple candles. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, **Gaudete** (Rejoice) Sunday, we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle at this time. Then, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's **Prophet's candle** symbolizes **Hope** reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup>'s **Bethlehem candle** symbolizes **Faith** reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup>'s **Shepherd's candle** symbolizes **Joy**, the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The 4<sup>th</sup>'s **Angel's candle** symbolizes **Peace**. It's message? "**Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.**"

So, dust off and set up your Advent Wreath and then **reflect each Sunday on what each candle symbolizes as you stare into its flame**. Just make sure to keep it a safe distance from all other flammable items in your home ... and best to change the batteries in your smoke alarm before you start and become entranced in prayer by the candles' flickering lights.

From my family to yours: **We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!**

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



<sup>1</sup> Gleaned from the website <https://www.catholiccompany.com/magazine/the-advent-wreath-tradition>

<sup>2</sup> Some wreath traditions also include a 5<sup>th</sup> white **Christ candle**, a pillar candle added to the wreath center, symbolizing purity, and lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

## Pope Francis' December Intention: For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



## Catholic Corner



FAITH ...we all *have faith* and we *are faithful* Christians ... but what *is faith*? Websters dictionary defines it as something that is believed, especially with strong conviction, and also, a firm belief in something when there is no proof to support it. I have been a part of the current *Steppingstones* (The Search faith program through our family of parishes). A recent session featured a film and the follow up discussion was about faith and what that looked like to us. At the end of the film, the narrator challenged us: Did we lack the faith to ask God to reveal Himself to us, and, if not and we had even a spark of faith, did we want it to grow so as to ask God to reveal Himself more?

For the next few days, I prayed each evening for God to reveal Himself to me more; to show me my purpose and what I was to do. It did not take long to see God and grow my faith. On the Saturday, only a few days after the session, my family's world was turned upside down. My wife was diagnosed at STEGH ER with a brain tumour. Later that evening, while waiting to be transferred to University Hospital neurology ICU, I was on my way back inside from the parking lot when I met Father John at the front doors. I explained why Lisa was there and asked if he could give Lisa the sacrament of the sick to which he said "*Absolutely*". When Father John was finished, he came out and shook my hand saying, "*Lisa is in God's hands now and there are no better hands to be in.*" Upon hearing that, I saw the face of God and felt a calm come over me. All I needed, or rather all I could do in this situation, was to have faith.

A few days later was surgery day and between Saturday and Wednesday I prayed ...a lot. And so did everyone else that I knew. Word had spread and so many prayers and rosaries were said. My wife came through surgery remarkably better than expected and was home just 48 hrs post-op! While we have a long road ahead of us (this is only step one), we have faith and the faith of amazing friends and family.

I continue to pray the rosary and ask God to continue to reveal himself to me. We have to have faith! It's all we have in a chaotic world. The path to order is clear if we pray and ask God to reveal Himself to us. In closing I would like to express our sincere thanks to all my Brother Knights and fellow parishioners for their prayers and support. It has revealed God's face and faith to us. Keep praying for Lisa and my family and please don't be afraid to ask for prayers if you are in need. As Father John said, "*There are no better hands*". Ask God to reveal Himself to you and you will be amazed in the growth of faith in your own life. God Bless!

Faithfully Your Brother in prayer, 🙏,  
SK. Bro. Rob Weir.

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.*

John 15:7

## Walk-a-thon to benefit Valora Place



Thank you to everyone who pledged donations totalling **\$7,300** for this worthy cause in our community.

Pictured are (L-R): **Bro. Steve Miloloza** (project coordinator) and canvassers **Bros. John Kana, Bill Walker** and **GK Harald Schraeder** with **Liz Brown**, Valora Place Executive Director (absent were **Bro. Joe Fric** and **Ladies Betty Kana & Pat West**).

For more information about **Valora Place** and their mission to protect and provide refuge for abused women and their children please visit their web site: <https://valoraplace.ca/>.



# The Elgin Patriot



Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Nov. 2024

Membership consists of Sir Knights from Councils 1467, 4189 & 6495

Sir Knights:

The Christmas season has begun. The poppy drive is behind us and the **Salvation Army kettles** are rolling out. Please remember your times. If you can't make it, be sure to line up a replacement. Many of our members can't do a double shift. That goes for the tree sales also.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, there was a mini-exemplification at St. Andrews the Apostle parish that brought nine new members into the assemblies in our area. Our congratulations to **SK Steve Wachowiak** from Father Ernie Deslippe Council who will join our Assembly. I was his sponsor and the ever-present **SK Roy Esbaugh** accompanied us. Please wear your name tags, introduce yourself, and give Steve a warm welcome at our next meeting.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas dinner put on by the Ladies Auxiliary, Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council, and our assembly. Christmas Carols with Brian May afterwards surely put us in the Christmas spirit.

Thank you to all the members who purchased **Remembrance Day** lawn signs. A number of these signs were displayed on major roads entering St. Thomas and on either side of the cenotaph on Princess Ave. I was hoping to have a larger attendance of Sir Knights at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. We will work on that next year as part of what we do is support the military and display patriotism. What a better day than this to show our support.

Regarding purchasing the new uniform: while we are not the worst of all assemblies, we're certainly not setting any examples. **For \$600, you can purchase a brand new great looking suit with fitting for life at Moores.** It's very hard to start up the **Colour Guard** when only four people have the uniform. It is my intent to get this going again. The Knights of Columbus retired the old regalia five years ago on June 30<sup>th</sup> and no amount of complaining will bring it back. So, let's move on and get back to what we used to do, only now with the new uniform. I would like to see one of our younger members step forward to be trained as a Commander.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by the one Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Wishing all the Sir Knights and their spouses a Merry and Blessed Christmas. May the New Year bring health and prosperity to all!

**"To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the messiah, the lord."** (Luke 2:11)

Fraternally yours,  
SK Simon Vink FN

**For These We Pray:** *[Please refer to the prayer intentions section of Communion]*

**Faithful Friar** Fr. Peter Keller  
**Pilot** Tom Carr  
**Scribe** Case Hoffer / Rob Weir  
**Trustees** Otis Clifton / Roy Esbaugh  
/ Francis Dadzie

**Navigator** Simon Vink  
**Admiral** Joe Fleming  
**Purser** Orio Ortins  
**Sentinels** Don Nolan / Peter Dion /  
John Kana

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Brothers: As Knights, we emphasize the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas. In fact, keeping Christ at the center of everything we do is a year-round mission. Whenever we serve our parish or community, we serve Christ. I also see my service to families as a way to honor him. When I sit down with a family and help them ensure their financial protection, I am serving his Church. I think about this often, and as I look back on the year, reminiscing on all of the relationships I have made with Knights and the security I have helped provide them and their families, I am incredibly grateful. Now, I ask you, as we close out 2024 and as you spend additional time with your family, consider how any changes from the past year might affect your life insurance portfolio. Even joyous occasions like buying a new house or sending a kid to college this fall can impact your insurance needs. Are you certain your current coverage is adequate and up to date? What would your family's financial situation be this time next year if the unimaginable happened to you or your spouse? If your answers to these questions are not certain, I encourage you to set up time to meet with me. Let's work together to create a plan that would not only help protect your family but give you the peace of mind and security you all deserve. Meanwhile, may you each have a holy and peaceful Christmas season with your loved ones. Let's continue to focus on Jesus through the end of this year. And let's pray for one another, especially for those who may be struggling in any way during the holidays. If there is any way I can offer help, please reach out to me.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!  
Brother John Noonan, FIC, CPCA ([john.noonan@kofo.org](mailto:john.noonan@kofo.org))

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Please welcome your Columbus Club of St. Thomas Officers and Directors for 2024-2025: Brothers **David Warden**, President; **David Elford**, VP; **Joseph Fleming**, Treasurer; and Directors **Dennis Walters** & **Roy Esbaugh**.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive of the Columbus Club for their support in electing me their new president. The club is a business and we must run it like one while remembering **fellowship is a key component of its success**. Moving forward, the club will face challenges and I am confident we will meet them with the strength of the executive and our many volunteers. It is important that the club remains a busy and active venue; an empty or underutilized building will not ensure we can meet our financial obligations. I hope the strong working relationship and support of the Knights will continue and prove prosperous to both. Thank you and I look forward to a great New Year.

Yours in fellowship, SK David Warden



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