



# COMMUNION

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

DECEMBER 2023



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Sir Knights:

As we now enter Advent, I pray that you and your families can make the time to prepare in earnest for a solemn Christmas. I pray too that you will be able to 'turn off' the noise, namely the increased volume (both in sound and frequency) of media urging you to 'shop 'til you drop' ... lest you not find that 'perfect gift' for a loved one. Instead, do what you can to '**Keep Christ in Christmas**' by giving the gift of your time to others.

You'll note that this issue includes an insert: Your annual dues notice. Please attend to it quickly so that we can remit Council's levies to Supreme sooner than later and then focus on what we do best – helping others through service and financial support.

Brother Martin Evers is still looking for assistance to develop a **Mass for the Special Needs**. Please email him directly ([martin.evers53@gmail.com](mailto:martin.evers53@gmail.com)) to express your interest and receive further details.

We have a lot of activities coming up this month and into the new year. Take note of them throughout this issue and make your plans to participate in as many as you can. As Knights, I call on you to recall your promises to **fraternity**, **unity** and **charity** (especially the first of these) and to get involved with your fellow brothers.

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



**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, using monies earned through volunteering at **Jackpot Time**, donated funds towards the purchase of balcony benches at **Indwell's "The Station"** residence.

Shown presenting Council's \$3,000 donation are (L-R): **Brother Simon Vink**, The Station's **Julie Ryan** & **Jessica Mostert-Thiessen**, and **Brother Jim Dewan**.

## Pope Francis' December Intention: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



## FS CHAT



The **Fraternal Dues Notices** for 2024 are being sent out inside this December Bulletin. If yours is not included, please contact me right away. Prompt payment will be greatly appreciated and is **due by January 15, 2024**. Membership Cards for 2024 will be available at all Business Meetings.

**NOTE: Every Brother whose payment is received by January 15, 2024 will be entered into a draw for a FREE MEMBERSHIP for 2025!**

## Happy December Birthdays To ...

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

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy 2024!

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



## November Assignments

- Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8 pm: Jim Dewan & Bill Walker
- Tues. Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 12 pm: Otis Clifton & 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

Our **Fall Fashion Show** allowed the Ladies Auxiliary to present a cheque for **\$1,000** to **Susan O'Brien** of STEGH's Foundation for the MRI. Donations were also made to the Food Bank and Fresh Start Support Services. Thanks to all of you for helping support our community.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be hosting a beautiful Christmas dinner at the Columbus Club, catered by the Back Alley, with musical entertainment by Brian May.

I hate to get this far ahead but on January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the hall to take down the Christmas decorations for another year, followed by a short meeting. We are hoping to plan a dinner in February, so stay tuned for further updates. Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Blessings,  
Sandi Hoffer, President



## MARK THE DATES DECEMBER EVENTS

All events take place at the Columbus Club at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ladies Aux. Christmas Dinner
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Evening with Fr. John (SA 6:30 pm)
- 11<sup>th</sup>: FED Exec. Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Assembly Christmas Dinner (Aylmer)
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club Directors
- **Next Soup is 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in January**
- **NO BUSINESS MEETING THIS MONTH**

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.



Pat West & Sandi Hoffer presenting the Ladies Auxiliary's donation to Susan O'Brien (center), STEGH Foundation.

## Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Richard Cochrill, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Martin Evers, John Jakobi Sr, Carl & Barb Kroeplin, John Laverty, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, Joan Vachon, Patricia (Pat) Vandevenne and Rob Weir. Please also pray for condolence for our widows and surviving family members.

Please pray for all our recently faithful departed 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.

## Why did you become a Knight?

Perhaps your father was a Knight or a friend asked you to join or you found the insurance and investment programs attractive. Whatever your reason, you're a Knight and have a responsibility laid at your feet, including promptly attending to the dues notice inserted in his issue. What's at the core of being a Knight? Essentially, to join with like-minded Catholic gentlemen in fraternity to perform charity. We support many diverse organizations with much needed funding, e.g., *Indwell*, *Fresh Start Support Services*, and our own parishes. We also provide service, such as the Soup Brothers' monthly soup for the food bank or preparing and serving food at the *Grace Cafe*. Our charity is enabled by fundraising and we undertake many initiatives that are fantastic opportunities for fellowship (dinners, raffles & draws, selling Christmas trees, and working bingo shifts at Jackpot Time). Being a Knight and hanging out with others that share your core beliefs provides many intangible benefits as well, especially learning that they have experienced and managed things that are new and perhaps causing you anxiety but are willing to listen and lend support and comfort.

As a Knight you are also a member of the **Columbus Club** – our 'club house' – a fully licensed banquet hall with kitchen. While it is the place Council meets to conduct its business, there are many other ways members can use this building. There's the 'After 4' social every Friday afternoon when the club is open to members and friends. Members can also book the club, in whole or in part, for special events such as birthdays, wedding receptions or family gatherings when your residence may not be big enough. The club is also made available to members at no charge for funeral receptions or wakes as a fraternal benefit. There is a meeting every Monday evening (save and except late December and through the summer) at the Columbus Club as Council, Assembly, Ladies Auxiliary, and Club Directors meet on their respective evenings to plan and conduct their business. These meetings provide opportunities for members to engage with club officers to develop projects and to inform expenditure of Council donations. As a minimum, it is hoped that each member in good standing will attend as many of the business meetings (4th Monday each month) as possible to learn about Council matters and to 'step up' to participate in the many projects to support those few brothers that seemingly carry a disproportionate burden for the 'good of the order'. Each business meeting adjourns to the Club lounge for complimentary snacks and good cheer.

There are many other aspects of Knighthood I have not covered. Please come to a meeting and take part in your Council - have your say and let us hear what you have on your mind. Help where you can on our many ongoing fundraising programs (we can use and need your help) and, at the very least, come out to meet new brothers and reconnect and re-ignite existing friendships. In keeping with the motto of our Order - In Service to One, In Service to All – bring your God-given gifts to bear on helping your fraternal brothers increase their spirituality while also doing works to help others. As the saying goes: **Now is the time for all good men** ...

Blair Ferguson, Chancellor

## London East & West Diocese Associations wish to express thanks to **Fr. Ernie**

**Deslippe Council 1467** for its support and assistance at the **Milestone Event – Dinner with the Bishop** on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. And especially to the nine individuals that sponsored the following members of the Family of Parishes: Fr. Peter, Fr. Anthony, Sr. Mary, Seminarian Jeffery and Deacon Dan and his spouse. We are happy to say 116 attended, including **His Excellency Bishop Fabro**, and that preliminary numbers indicate we should be able to donate over \$1,500 to the seminarians at St. Peters, London. I hope everyone has a safe and joyful Christmas season. Fraternally, Martin Evers PGK PFN FFA, Secretary of LEDA



**Bishop Fabro** celebrating the 4:30 p.m. Saturday mass at St. Anne's prior to the Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Milestone Event dinner.

## 2023 Poppy Campaign

A huge thank you to the following fellow Knights for so willingly giving of their time to the Poppy Campaign this year. We were responsible for selling poppies at three different locations this year and thanks go out to:

Tom Carr	Murray Clarke	Wayne Elliott	Roy Ewart
Case Hoffer	John Kana	Wayne Krosnicki	Ron Lapchinski
Bernie Sheridan	Terry Sheridan	Simon Vink	Bill Walker

Fraternally,  
Don Nolan, Poppy Campaign Chair



### COMMUNITY PROGRAM

**SOUP BROTHERS:** The Soup Brothers made and delivered **69 containers (32-oz) of Spicy Butternut Soup** for the St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank on Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup>. The next soup day is **Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club ... all are welcomed!

**ELIMINATION DRAW:** Tickets for the annual Elimination Draw have been distributed to sellers working off lists of people that have purchased in the past. While draw-dinner tickets will first be made available to those that have purchased them in the past, a number generally become available each year and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket and have not done so in previous years, **please contact GK Ray Bernicky (519-207-3168) who will arrange to get your order filled.**

**ALL-U-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS DINNER:** To benefit the **Hospice of Elgin** will be held **Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Club ... see the poster in this issue and get your tickets before they are gone!!!



Fr. John Johnson & Bro. Rob Weir loading up the donations for the St. Thomas Food Bank collected at Holy Angels'.



(L-R) Bro. Simon Vink, Bro. Regis Trudel, Karen McDade (St. Thomas Food Bank), Bro. Rob Weir & Bro. Roy Ewart promoting Keep Christ in Christmas and soliciting food donations at the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Light Up St. Thomas event in downtown.

## The Greatest Christmas Gift ...



Do you remember your favorite Christmas present? I must admit I was a very spoiled child. I'm the youngest of six children and up to the day my parents passed away I was their baby. So, every Christmas was a dream come true. When I was five years old, I got a **Jaguar XKE pedal car**, racing red, fake leather seats, even a plastic 12-cylinder engine under the hood. I wish I still had it. **GI Joe** was a huge part of my life back then so every year I got another GI Joe with 'life-like hair' and 'Kung Fu Grip', or a new adventure set to go with Joe, like a six-wheeled Argo or an Egyptian Mummy to bury and find. One year I was given a **Johnny 7 O.M.A. (One-Man Army)**. The Vietnam war was in full swing and kids' toys reflected that. Johnny 7 was an oversized plastic M-16 that fired red plastic bullets and had both a grenade and rocket launcher. Plus, with the flick of a switch, a pistol dropped out of it. It came with a plastic army helmet and canteen belt. It's funny as I write this, I have a very clear image of running around playing war with it.

The one gift that I always remember was the one I got when I was 12 years old. Under the tree was a large rectangle box with my name on it and it said "From Dad" (not "Mom and Dad" or even "Santa" as was the norm), from dad alone to me. When I tore open the box, I was stunned to find a **Cooley bolt action .22 caliber rifle**. This was no toy. It had a rabbit carved into the pistol grip and etched in the barrel was "Cooley Firearms, Coburg Ontario". I couldn't believe my eyes, I was speechless. After all the other gifts were opened, my dad and I went out to the back yard and he set up a row of tin cans as targets. My dad taught me how to load it, how to hold it, and how to aim it. He taught me all of the safety aspects of owning a firearm: always knowing where the muzzle is pointing, not pointing it at anything you didn't plan to kill, and that I would eat anything I did kill (which stopped me from shooting song birds and chipmunks).

The best part of my new rifle was the amount of time I got to spend with my dad. Just me and him, being one of six put dad time at a premium. At first, we just spent time together in the back yard perfecting my aim and understanding safe gun handling. Then we went into the woods, my dad and I walking through the woods hunting rabbits. Something else was going on that at the time I didn't even know was going on. He was telling me about his childhood, growing up during the depression and meeting my mom on the L&PS Railway going down to Port Stanley after school one day. Then he told me about joining the RCAF, becoming a Hurricane pilot. He never talked much about shooting Germans down but he did tell me that he was lucky to be able to come home. He told me how when new guys showed up on base, he didn't want to get to know them as he knew they wouldn't be around for long and so to save his heart that torment he just kept to himself and became incredibly lonely despite being surrounded by people. He joked about coming home after six years and marrying my mom two days later upon his return.

He taught me so much more than safe gun handling and how to hunt. He taught me how important life is, how it is not something to be wasted but cherished, that every day is a gift from God and should be viewed as such. He taught me that all of God's creations are to be respected and valued. To take nothing for granted because it can all be lost in the blink of an eye. He taught me how to treat women, that each should be treated as if they were a fine China doll, that they are God's greatest creation, never to be disrespected and never to have a hand laid on one in anger. He told me any man that hit a woman wasn't a man at all but a disgrace to our gender and not worthy of respect. I learned so many life lessons as we walked through the woods that surrounded Port Stanley at the time, now sadly gone and covered with extensive subdivisions. We went fishing a lot as well, always on some small inland lake where we'd cast out our line with a hook and worm on the end and a bobber on the line. We'd sit there and stare at that bobber waiting for it to bounce announcing a fish nibbling at it, sometimes in silence while we'd read (him, a **Louis L'Amour** novel of the old west; me, a **Bernard Cornwell** novel of the Napoleonic Wars) or we'd talk about life and how it is to be lived.

I don't know if he had all of these lessons in mind when he gave me that .22 rifle for Christmas that year but it turned out to be one of the most important aspects of my life. I hunt and fish to this day and I try to do my best to follow those life-lessons. On some, I failed miserably. I didn't always treat my life with respect. I took life for granted, as did many of my friends, who almost all sadly died at a young age because they never learned to respect the life God gave them. I did follow a few lessons to a 'T': I've never laid a hand on a woman in

[continued]

[Greatest Gift continued]

anger (even as I've walked away more than a few times), they should always be touched with a loving hand and I am proud to say I've never failed to follow that rule.

When my son was born, I couldn't wait to pass on these life lessons from my father. I was a stay-at-home dad and so I had even more of an opportunity right from the very get go to mold my son into a man of respect and dignity. Unfortunately, Cooley firearms closed in the 1970s but I did buy Seamus a .22 rifle for Christmas when he was 10 years old. I've tried to emulate my father, to teach him all that my father taught me. We've spent many hours in the woods or on a lake bank. I talked to him about life's importance and about God's love, about treating women with respect and tenderness.

So, is this about me being a spoiled brat? Is it a pro-gun / pro-hunting rant? Or is it a tale of a father's love for his son and that son passing on those lessons? Of me telling my son of what my father had to endure so we don't have to? I pray you see it as the latter. While fatherhood has always been an important job, sadly too many men don't take the time to be good at it. Our society is full of fatherless families or families with part time, every-other-weekend dads. Our world actually encourages couples to not marry, to not make lifelong commitments to each other, to just 'shack up' and if it doesn't work out to move on.

Society has taken away the role of the father in a child's life and put it into the hands of a stranger, including but not limited to the 'woke' teacher that tells them they can be whatever or whomever they want to be regardless of their parent's knowledge since its none of their business and entirely up to the child. Thank God my father was around and a strong person in my life. When I was 14, I was sure that becoming a photographer for Playboy would be a great career. Again, I thank God my dad was there to tell me to give my head a shake and to remember those lessons I learned in the woods.

I pray daily that our society gives its head a shake and wakes up to put all-important life lessons back in the hands of parents. I also pray daily that fathers out there take the time to be responsible and part of their children's lives, teaching them those all-important life lessons. **You see, when all is said and done, it wasn't the .22 rifle that was the greatest Christmas gift of all time, it was the time spent with my Dad and the lessons that I learned from him.**

I pray you all have a wonderful Christmas and get to spend time with your family. As always let's remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Peace my Brothers and look forward to writing for you in the new year.

Fraternally, Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

## 2023 Christmas Trees Campaign



(L-R) Brothers John Laverty, Henry Valks & Dennis Walters inviting their fellow Knights to drop by the tree yard to connect with each other ... and help sell some trees.

***They're heeeere ... [but not for long]***

If you haven't yet signed up to do a sales shift, please contact **Brother Patrick Houston** now to help fill some gaps in the sales shifts schedule (519-633-0724; [pghouston@sympatico.ca](mailto:pghouston@sympatico.ca)).

While the revenue from trees sales contributes significantly to sustaining Council's functions, that pales in comparison to how each 2-hour shift spent in the company of a fellow brother contributes to fraternal unity.

The annual campaign is supported by numerous brothers, who volunteer their time to prepare the tree order, setting up the yard, receive and unload the trees and cover the sales shifts over the few weeks it takes to sell the trees. There are too many to mention here but most are already listed on the schedules in the shed in the yard so make the effort to drop by and say thanks ... and share a few stories as well.

# Reflection

Advent, the time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming, runs from Sunday December 3 through Christmas Eve this year. It also marks the beginning of our liturgical year. As good a time as any - perhaps more so - to spend some time refamiliarizing ourselves with the original four Evangelists' accounts of Christ's arrival. So, let's read on.

**Matthew** starts off by establishing Jesus' genealogical record, to affirm His descendancy from Abraham and King David as foretold in the OT. Notably, in this first Gospel, an "*angel of the Lord*" appears to Joseph in his dream to resolve him to see things through with Mary. Jesus is born in Bethlehem where the Magi, having seen the star, "*rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*" (2:10-11) We then read how Herod gets jealous and the angel again counsels Joseph while he sleeps to hie tail it to Egypt to save the child from the King's murderous wrath. Herod dies, the angel returns to Joseph in his dreams yet again to tell him to take the family back to find refuge in Israel, eventually to Nazareth, wherein Jesus will be called a Nazarene, again as prophesized. Then, after some years, John the Baptist enters stage, outs Jesus, and the rest unfolds as His Story.

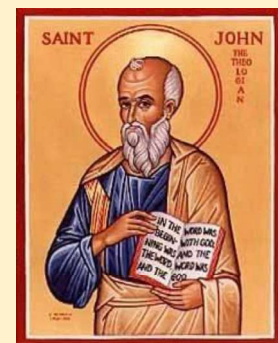
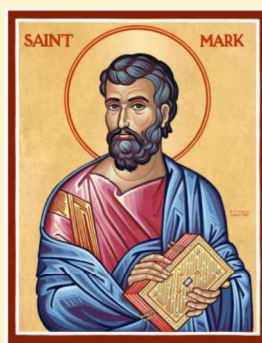
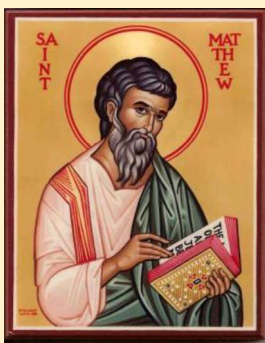
**Mark** begins with John the Baptist, in the role prophesized by Isaiah, "*Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight*" (1:2-3), and then carries on with the mission of the adult Jesus. Mark touches on Jesus' birth indirectly when he describes His reception in His hometown (6:3-4), "*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?*" And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, "*A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.*"

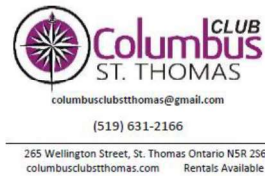
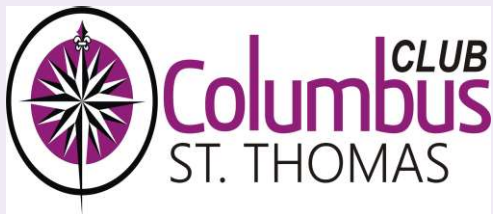
**Luke** opens with the Angel Gabriel promising the birth of John (the Baptist) to Zechariah. Six months later, Gabriel tells Mary she is to give birth to Jesus. Luke's is the 'classic' birth in a manger origin story, unspoiled with concerns about Herod or the escape to Egypt. Instead, we have Simeon saying, on the occasion of Jesus' circumcision when 8-days old (Luke 2:29-35), "*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.*" And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "*Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.*" Following this cryptic message, the family returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew up.

Which brings us to **John's** (the Apostle), account which requires, in my opinion, a lot of reflection: He opens with, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" (1:1-5) Having thus extended Jesus' 'descendancy' back to Genesis, he then introduces John the Baptist and explained his role. In my opinion, the Evangelist's key message is (1:14), "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.*"

As Catholics, we believe that by 'Keeping Christ in Christmas' we profess that we know He will dwell among us again and on that note, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

Harald Schraeder, DGK, PGK





## Dear Brothers:

I hope all is going well this Christmas season for all of you. While I know that things can become overbearing and stressful but just remember what they say, "Jesus is the reason for the season".

So, just take a few minutes to sit back and think of all the good things in your life that you should be grateful for. Whether it be your family, your many friends, or all the good things that you've experienced in your past that brought warmth to your heart.

The Columbus Club and St. Thomas Ford co-hosted the November Chamber of Commerce Business After 5. These events are a meet and greet format that allow members to get together socialize, mingle and talk about who they are, what they do, and promote their respective businesses, companies and organizations in St. Thomas and area. The turn out was great as you do get to meet many interesting people from all walks of life.

Although it is still eight months away, we are well along our way planning for Summerfest 2024. While many of you know what it is, I'm sure some of you may not, even as we are going to mark our 19<sup>th</sup> year this coming June. Summerfest will run from Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, kicking off with an evening perch dinner, through the afternoon and evening of Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> featuring an amazing line-up of musical entertainment. The proceeds from each Summerfest are directed to charitable causes in our community and this year's beneficiary will be The Hospice of Elgin. In past years we have donated approximately \$56,000 in total to The Grace Cafe, The Inn, and the St. Thomas Elgin Hospital Foundation to mention just a few. Please mark your calendars now and stay tuned for additional details in future issues of Communion.

In closing, on my and your Club Directors' behalf, we wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

Truly,

Roy Esbaugh, Club President & Club Directors

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



# SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS DINNER

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>  
COLUMBUS CLUB  
265 WELLINGTON STREET



PROCEEDS to be DONATED to HOSPICE OF ELGIN

COCKTAILS @ 4 PM / DINNER @ 5 - 6:30 PM  
TICKETS \$15 (Adults) / \$10 (under age 12)

Advance only & while supplies last & available from:

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



## JESUS

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON  
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# The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Oct. 2023

Membership consist of Sir Knights from Councils 1467 & 4189



A special thank you to Sir Knights **Roy Esbaugh**, **Jim Dewan**, **Simon Vink** and **Larry McCaffery** for the laying of Remembrance Day wreaths at the Cenotaphs in St. Thomas and Port Stanley.

This is your final reminder about our **Christmas Dinner on Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>** at the Aylmer Knights of Columbus Hall. Cocktails will be available at 5 p.m. with dinner service at 6 p.m. **The cut-off date to RSVP for the dinner is Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** to allow sufficient time for the caterers to buy the necessary food. Please contact me directly for tickets at (519) 852 2236.

I would like to wish you and your families a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!!

Vivat Jesu!

SK Henry Poirier FN, PGK, PFN, PDD



**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.

*If anyone is aware of a person that should be included on this list, please notify the Faithful Navigator.*

**Faithful Friar** Fr. Peter Keller

**Navigator** Henry Poirier

**Captain** Simon Vink

**Pilot** Tom Carr

**Admiral** Joe Fleming

**Comptroller** James Coveny

**Scribe** Case Hoffer / Rob Weir

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**Trustees:** Otis Clifton / Roy Esbaugh / Jim Dewan

**Sentinels:** Don Nolan / Peter Dion / John Kana

**Commander** Larry McCaffery / Jim Dewan

When the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, three principles united its members: *charity, unity and fraternity*. At that time, people feared that members of the Catholic faith owed their entire allegiance to the Church and could not be trusted as citizens of their country. *Patriotism* was added to the Order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country [Ed.: excerpted from Supreme site]. Any '3<sup>rd</sup> Degree' member of **Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467** that is interested in joining the '4<sup>th</sup> Degree' **Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879** is asked to contact Sir Knight Henry Poirier, Faithful Navigator of the Assembly (519-852-2236; [poirh@bell.net](mailto:poirh@bell.net)).



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As we approach the end of the year and our thoughts turn to the angelic declaration of “**Peace on Earth**” and “**Goodwill to Men!**”, we remember Pope Francis’ Prayer for Peace where he prays “**Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! ... Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last ...**” In our lives there is much going on: scurrying around buying a Christmas tree and getting it decorated; looking for that perfect gift for our spouse, our kids and maybe grandkids. There are parties and school Christmas shows. Seems like we’re busier than ever. But let me ask you to slow down for just a few minutes and consider some financial issues that come up at the end of the calendar year.

1. Because we’re so late in the year, you may have met your individual or family deductible on your health insurance plan. Financially, this may be the opportune time for some minor procedure to be scheduled; or that visit to a specialist you may have put off. The same is true about dental insurance and sometimes even for vision coverage. Check with your Human Resource office or your health insurance carrier for details.
2. When it comes to health insurance, do you have a Health Savings Account? Do you have to spend the money that’s in there by year end? Some plans have a “use it or lose it” feature. Do you have to make a decision about how much to contribute next year? These are some of the time-sensitive issues you may need to consider. Again, make sure you check with your HR office or health insurance carrier.
3. If you have earned income for the year, will you contribute to an RRSP, TFSA, an annuity or a non-registered account? Are you eligible to contribute even more based on the “catch up” provision? Now is the time to start making plans.
4. Speaking of RRSPs and TFSAs, have you contributed up to your limit for this year?

All of these issues come with rules and regulations, and each individual situation will be different. I’d be happy to discuss them with you.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us be thankful for all the graces God has showered on us, especially the gift of his Son, our Savior! Vivat Jesus!

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




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