



COMMUNION

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

February 2025



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers: While February may be the shortest month, it contains one of the most important days of the year that, if not observed, can result in a husband spending the other 364 days lamenting his error. I'm talking of course about Valentine's Day. I've even gone to the fraternal effort to provide you with a card in this issue to give to your Sweet Baboo on the 14th (you should probably complement it with a gift ... I understand something chocolatey, sparkly or nice-smelling may do the trick ... **definitely no tools or domestic appliances**).

When you omit the relatively 'quiet' summer months, February also marks the half-way point of our fraternal year. As such, it's the time for Council members to begin in earnest to reflect on expressing their interest in taking on a leadership role, whether to stand for an Officer position or to accept a program or activity lead role. To be blunt: Each of us has a duty to 'take his turn', lest we continue to rely on 're-treads' (like me) to sustain our Council. So, take a moment to review "**Understanding Council Officer Roles and Responsibilities**" (see: <https://www.kofc.org/en/get-involved/college-councils/resources/council-officer-roles.html>). Please ... and then call me.

We've got a great line-up of fraternal events this month: **Free Skate & Superbowl Party** on the 9th, **Knights with the Stars game & Valentine's Dance** on the 14th, and our regular monthly **Soup Brothers' 'chop, chat & stir the pot'** on the 19th. Try and make it out to as many of those as you can.

And while current events, to say nothing of daily utterances from the leader of our great southern neighbours, may cause stress and anxiety about what the future will hold, understand this my friend: **Love will prevail**.

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
- 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
- David Warden, President, Columbus Club

COUNCIL BULLETIN: Harald Schraeder (hschran623@rogers.com)

WEB SITE LINK: kofc1467

SITE ADMIN: martin.evers53@gmail.com

COLUMBUS CLUB MANAGER: Laurie Elford (226-927-0375)



Join Us!

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

Super Bowl Sunday

The Columbus Club is hosting a party!!!

Sunday February 9th (doors open at 4 p.m.).



Free Admission / Ladies Welcome / Bar will be open. Bring a snack and the club will order in pizza for 'half-time'. Play some cards or join in on our dice game. You may get lucky.

115th Anniversary of our Council

We will be celebrating this milestone event on Saturday March 29th at the St. Anne's Centre. **Registration deadline is March 7th** and information and the registration form are available on our website (www.kofc1467.com). If you have any questions or cannot access the form, please contact **Martin Evers**, PGK PFN FFA (martin.evers53@gmail.com / 519-878-2313).

Thank you and hope to see you there! Fraternally, Martin Evers

NOTICE OF MOTION

Moved by Brother Henry Poirier that Article VIII (Funerals, etc.), Section 2, paragraph 2, of Council By-laws be amended to read "The Grand Knight or his duly appointed representative(s) shall arrange to have **five Masses** [currently says "one Mass"] said for the repose of the soul of the deceased". The motion will be seconded, debated and voted upon at the February Business Meeting of Council.



FS CHAT

DUES ARE DUE

If you are reading this and have not paid your 2025 dues, then you are late and please accept this gentle reminder to remit your dues ASAP. Your dues are not a charity donation and constitute 60% of our annual budgeted income. They cover your membership in a brotherhood of Catholic gentlemen whose first principle is Charity. Membership has both privileges and responsibilities, one of which is to pay our dues on time. It is hoped that Brothers will pay soon so that a second notice will not be required. Dues can be sent to my home (the address is on your notice) or dropped off at the Columbus Club (please use the mail box by the Wellington Street facing 'front' door) or sent by e-transfer to FS1467@ontariokofc.ca.

PLEASE NOTE: 2025 Membership Cards are available to pick up at all Business meetings. Thank you to all Brothers who paid prior to January 30th and were eligible for the **draw for a Free 2026 Membership**. The Winner will be selected at our February 27th Business Meeting.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Michael Brisson, Michael Butler, Gerald Holden, Michael Kelly, Richard Lenz, Barry MacMillan, Adrian Smith, Peter Sowinski, Hubert Vandenberg & Arnold Walker.

Fraternally, Regis Trudel, FS1467@ontariokofc.ca, 226-688-6060



February Assignments

- Sat. 8th 12-2 p.m.: Al Baca & Tom Carr
- Mon. 17th 2-4 p.m.: Steve Wachowiak & Roy Esbaugh
- Sun. 23rd 4-6 p.m.: Bill Walker & Greg Reynaert

Please arrive 15 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.

We were each given a rosary upon joining the Knights and encouraged to recite a rosary as often as possible. Your fellow Brother Knights join together every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. to pray a virtual rosary together using ZOOM.

You can be added to the weekly email notice and provided the ZOOM link so that you can join whenever you are able from your home by contacting Brother Regis at FS1467@ontariokofc.ca or 226-688-6060.

Ladies Auxiliary

While right now we are in a deep freeze (with more snow than we have had for many years), there is warmth in my heart as I think back over the past few weeks. Christmas was a blessed and faith-filled celebration. Now the decorations have been put away at the hall until next year and I want to thank all those who came out to help.

It was also a sad time as we lost one of our valuable members of the K of C Auxiliary, **Carol Coveny**. She was a dedicated and faithful volunteer, Past President of the Auxiliary, and will be greatly missed. We send our sympathy and prayers to her husband Jim and the entire family. The Auxiliary will be having a **mass said for the repose of Carol's soul at St Anne's on March 6th** and I hope as many of you that are able will attend. Please remember the family in your prayers.

God bless, Sandi Hoffer, President

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Gary Beckwith, Maurice Brennan, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, 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, Dean Kitt's wife Ria, Carl & Barb Kroepelin, John Laverty, Michael Lukasik, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Larry McCaffery as well as his relative Leo, 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 **Lady Carol Coveny**, wife of SK Jim, & **Evelyn ('Evie') McCaffery**, sister-in-law of SK Larry, 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.

MARK THE DATES FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

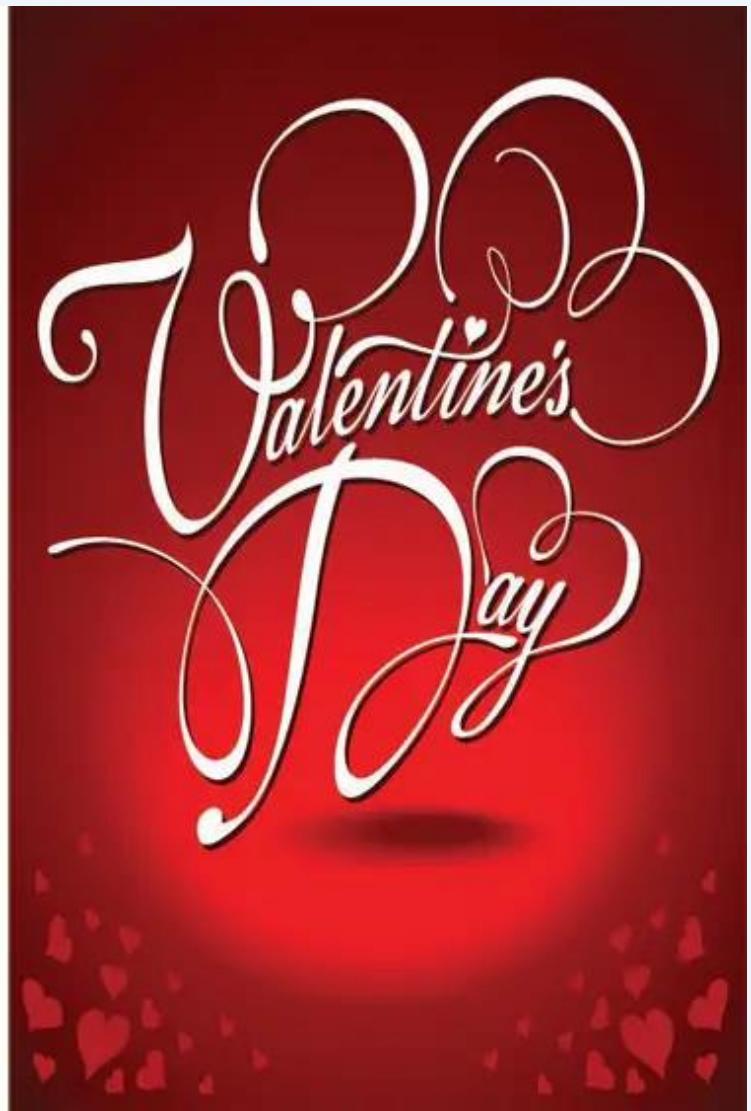
- 3rd: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 5th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m. SA**)
- 9th: Free Public Skate at the 'Joe' (**1:15 p.m.**)
- 9th: Super Bowl Party (4 p.m.)
- 10th: FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 14th: St. Thomas Stars 'Knight' (**7 p.m.**)
- **14th: Valentine's Dance (see poster inside)**
- 17th: Columbus Club Directors
- 19th: Soup Brothers (**9 a.m.**)
- 24th: FED Business Meeting

UPCOMING:

Sunday March 16th: **St. Patrick's Day Pot-Luck** at the Columbus Club. Social & Cocktails (5-6 pm) with dinner at 6 pm & entertainment to follow. Come dressed as you are and we hope to see you there!

Saturday March 29th: Council 1467's 115th Anniversary dinner (St. Anne's Centre).

Here's a free blank card for you to cut out and use. We've got your back, bro!



JOE THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

FREE SKATE

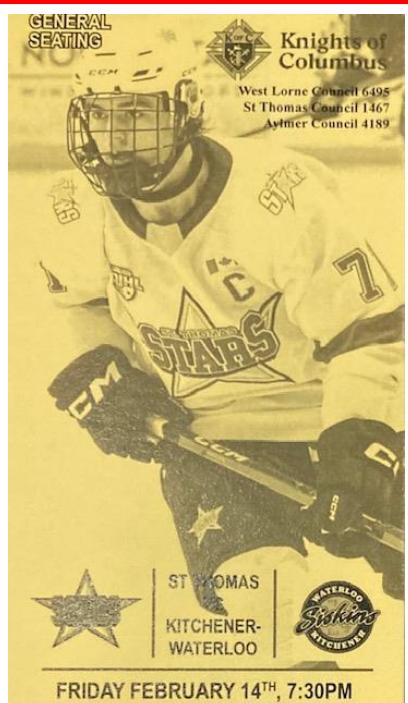
Sunday February 9, 2025

1:15pm - 2:35 PM

Sponsored by:
Knights of Columbus



Come out and enjoy 2 Council-sponsored events at the Joe this month!
Get your free hockey tickets at the Columbus Club while supplies last.





SUPER SOUP BROTHERS

As you are aware, several brothers meet the third Wednesday of each month (September through June inclusive) at the Columbus Hall to prepare 200 to 250 servings of soup that they then deliver to the local St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank ('The Caring Cupboard').



Shown in the photos taken at the January 'Soup Day' are: (top) Bros. Otis Clifton & Joe Hicknell; and (bottom) Bros. Dennis Collins, Ron Casier, Michael Kilbourne, Luc Audet, Otis Clifton, Bernie Sheridan, Joe Hicknell, Case Hoffer & Tom Carr.

Come out and join us this month!



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The Soup Brothers made **92 containers** (24-oz) of **Cream of Potato Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on January 15th. The next soup day is **Wednesday February 19th**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club and all are welcome.

115TH ANNIVERSARY: We will be celebrating this milestone event on **Saturday March 29th** at the St. Anne's Centre. **Registration deadline is March 7th** and information and the registration form are available on our website (www.kofc1467.com). For additional details, contact Martin Evers, PGK PFN FFA (martin.evers53@gmail.com / 519-878-2313).

ELIMINATION DRAW: **Weekly \$50 winners for January** were: Jan. 6th, Ticket #99, **Dave Demoer**; 13th, #300, **Francis Dadzi**; 20th, #176, **Annie Walters**; and 27th, #79, **Susan Williams**. Congratulations to our winners so far. Good luck this month!

FREE FAMILY SKATE AT THE JOE: Council 1467 will be covering the \$5 cost for anyone attending the Public Skate at the Joe Thornton Community Centre on **Sunday February 9th** from 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. Everyone welcome!

KNIGHT WITH THE STARS: The Elgin County Knights Councils in Aylmer, St. Thomas & West Lorne have once again collaborated to buy a block of tickets to the **St. Thomas Stars game on Friday February 14th**. To get yours, while supplies last, call the Club (519-631-2166).

PALL-BEARERS: Did you know that Council provides pall-bearers upon request of local funeral homes on behalf of families? Interested in helping this mission? Call **SK Bro. Case Hoffer** (519-637-0964).

Out of Sight ... Never out of Mind



When our son Seamus was 4- or 5-years old, we were shopping at White Oaks Mall, Christmas shopping as I recall. Linda and I were looking at something and when I turned around, Seamus was gone. We both started looking around, calling his name but to no avail. The sales clerk we had been dealing with also took up the search and within minutes both Linda and I were in tears, me the more so, I'm sure. The sales clerk suggested we go to the service office and get the store searched. As we walked into the office, there was Seamus sitting in a chair, also crying. It was a happy reunion with lots of tears and hugs. It turned out that Seamus had thought that walking in between the coats on a clothing display rack looked like a good idea. The problem was that when he came out, we were not where he thought we should be and he got turned around and exited the other end. Fortunately, he had the sense to immediately stop someone who worked there and tell them, in between sobbing I'm sure, he was lost. I'm sure many of you parents can relate to this story. Seamus was gone maybe 15 minutes and yet we were terrified and worried beyond belief. Now, imagine how Joseph and Mary must have felt when they realized that Jesus was missing on their way home from their visit to the temple for Passover.

When Seamus was missing some worst-case scenarios went through my mind. Comparatively, the worst-case scenario in 5 BC could be much worse: slavery was a thriving industry back then (and sadly still is) as bandits would hide in the hills and watch over the many caravans that passed by for stray children wandering off that could be easily grabbed and whisked away never to be seen again. I'm sure this is what would have gone through the minds of Joseph and Mary.

So how did Jesus get left behind? While I don't think his earthly parents thought, "He's the Son of God, He can look after Himself", what they probably thought was He was somewhere within their caravan traveling home. A caravan, a large group of travelers with their animals and property, was a necessary way to travel, a 'safety-in-numbers' approach against the ever-present threat of bandit activity. Jesus would also have lived within a very close-knit, extended and multigenerational family. All would have traveled together to the Passover festival in Jerusalem and amongst that group would have been Jesus' kin and other children His age from His hometown. As such, Joseph and Mary would have reasonably presumed Jesus was safely ensconced and being looked after. At some point the situation changed as nighttime came and Jesus hadn't come to find his parents to bed down with them. Mary would have become frantic, with Joseph trying to reassure her that Jesus was alright somewhere in the caravan and that they'd find him in the morning. Morning arrived and a search amongst the group failed to turn up Jesus. A quick inquiry of all the relatives proved no one had seen him since they'd left the temple. Joseph and Mary must return - alone, short on food and water, and frantic with concern.

As with today's parents, nothing would have mattered to Joseph and Mary except for finding Jesus. The dangerous trip back through the desert alone paled against the prospect of finding their son in a huge, overpopulated city, still full of merchants, Roman soldiers and other travelers yet to leave after Passover. I often think, what was Jesus thinking at this point? Surely, He must have realized that His family had left on the long trek back home. He had to understand that a 12-year-old boy sitting amongst a bunch of grey-bearded Rabbis discussing encyclopedic knowledge of Jewish history and faith wasn't an everyday occurrence. He also must have understood that what He was doing was a huge act of disobedience.

This is the only story we have from the Gospels concerning Jesus in his youth and so we really don't have much to go on as to what kind of kid our Lord was. Apocryphal writings have an abundance of stories of the adolescent Christ but they're apocryphal for a reason: they were left out of the bible because the church fathers saw the inconsistencies in His character. I'm getting off track here but it's worth mentioning that books such as the Gospels of Thomas, of Mary, and Book of Judas include tales of the young Jesus. In one, a young Jesus builds birds out of clay and then makes them come to life and they fly away. In another, He kills a fellow youth but then feels bad about it and brings him back to life. My favorite relates how the teenage Jesus made it snow in the Middle East so that He and His pals could enjoy the sensation of a snowball fight and build snowmen. You can see why they didn't make the cut to be included in the bible.

Getting back to Joseph and Mary looking for Jesus, the parents having searched the Bazaar and back alleys of the lower city, headed to the temple mount. The temple itself covered 3 acres so required an imposing search of vast courtyards with rooms for women, animals, and lepers. They would have assumed He couldn't have been in where the Sanhedrin reside. But then they finally heard Jesus' voice and found Him on the terrace, where the sages and

[... continued]

scribes taught scripture, discussing scripture and Jewish law with a group of old men who were sitting listening to Him instead of the other way around. These men were amazed at the depth of this young man's knowledge. Mary, understandably upset, said, "Son, why have you treated us so?" Jesus calmly replied, "Didn't you know I'd be in my Father's house?" This is the first time Jesus proclaimed His divinity; saying that He is the son of God. Oddly, the gospels don't record the reaction of the scribes that have been listening to him talk. Did they not hear what He just said? Clearly not, because Jewish law clearly stated that what Jesus said was blasphemy and, on that account, the Holy Family would have been hauled out of the temple and subjected to stoning until dead.

This is the last time we hear of Jesus until He begins His ministry at approximately age 30. I've taken a great deal of artistic license in writing this and of course have no idea how Joseph and Mary felt or how they searched. Nevertheless, over time as I've read Luke, I can't but help but to put myself into their situation. I remember how I felt when Seamus was gone for what could have been no more than 20 minutes. Jesus was missing for days we must assume. I also think with the young Jesus' statement of being in His Father's house, that it was the beginning of the end. Is this why Luke included it when no other gospel does? So that we know that Jesus knew all along that He was the Son of God?

The church fathers are worth reading if you're looking for a better understanding of Jesus' life. They do fill in some blanks around the life of Christ that the gospels leave out. While some quote from apocryphal writings, they could discern what to take and what to leave behind. We need to understand that the writings of the church fathers are what makes us Catholic. Comparatively, Anglicanism and its various off-shoots believe only in scripture: if it's not in the bible then it's trash. The Catholic faith relies on interpretation of the bible and also on tradition and the writings of men like Justin Martyr, Origen, Cyril of Alexandria, St. Ambrose, St. Gregory, and of course St. Augustine. Their writings give us the knowledge from the very beginnings of our faith, from eye-witnesses to Jesus' miracles, and from those who traveled with the Apostles on their journeys.

While I've come a long way from the young Jesus being lost, I feel a connection to my own life experience, and while there's as much unwritten as is written about Jesus's life, the part that isn't spelled out for us we accept as a matter of faith.

Peace,
SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

Novena for Life

The Knights of Columbus Novena for Life will run **Sunday March 16th through 24th** in advance of the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, and the **K of C Day of the Unborn Child** on **Tuesday March 25th**. Prayer cards and intentions will be printed and available prior to masses. For those participating at home, all information including the intentions, will be accessible in the Family of Parishes on-line bulletins during that period (<https://elginrcparishes.ca/>).

I am requesting the assistance of Brother Knights to lead the Novena on some weekday mass dates, as listed below, and to be conducted 20 minutes before each mass as I will be working out of town for some of the week. Please contact me if you are able to assist: **Bro. Patrick Houston, (519) 633-0724 / (519) 281-6400 / pghouston@sympatico.ca.**

Sun. Mar. 16 - 9:00am mass @ Holy Angels'
Tue. Mar. 18 - 8:00am mass @ St. Anne's
Thu. Mar. 20 - After 9:15am mass @ St. Anne's
Sat. Mar. 22 - 4:30pm mass @ St. Anne's
Mon. Mar. 24 - 8:00am mass@ Holy Angels'

Mon. Mar. 17 - 8:00am mass @ Holy Angels'
Wed. Mar. 19 - 8:00am mass @ St. Anne's
Fri. Mar. 21 - 8:00am mass @ St. Anne's
Sun. Mar. 23 - 9:00am mass @ Holy Angels'

Regards,
Patrick Houston

Reflection

February is the Month of the **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, marked by the feast day called **Candlemas** which commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple by Joseph and Mary (see: Luke 2:22-40). Mary presented Jesus in compliance with the Old Testament rules (see: Leviticus 12). The feast falls on February 2nd, which is traditionally the 40th day of and the conclusion of the Christmas–Epiphany season.

February also features **Valentine's Day**, on the 14th, which, despite its Christian origins as a feast day honouring a martyr named Valentine, has become a significant commercial celebration of romance and love. I thought then to reflect this month on this simple question: **What is love?**

While I'm imagining a few of you just started bobbing your head to the Eurodance sound of **Haddaway** singing his 1993 hit, I would instead draw your attention instead to **1 Corinthians 13** and invite you to think how you can apply its lesson to your everyday life:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So, faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

While I'm sure you're very familiar with the above scripture, likely having heard it at every wedding you've ever attended (including your own), I want to emphasize the recurring "**but have not love**" in the first paragraph. To me, St. Paul's key message comes down to this: If you spend all your time, skills and resources on advancing your own self-interests rather than seeking to apply those to the benefit of others, you're missing the point of Jesus's second commandment: **To love your neighbour as yourself.**

In closing, I invite you this Valentine's to resolve yourself to be a sheep, not a goat, so that when your time comes and you are called to Heaven, Jesus will welcome you as He foretold (Matthew 25:34-36), "**Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.**"

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Love is Something You Do

Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Pope Francis' February Intention: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Now is the Time for all Good Parishioners to come to the aid of ...

The **Holy Angels' Fundraising Committee** has re-formed and is preparing to find the funds to not only wipe out the remaining debt but to start gathering the money to do much-needed repairs to what many call their spiritual home. The immediate, short-term objective is to **eliminate the remaining and outstanding debt of just over \$250,000** from the elevator installation and original renovations of more than a decade ago.

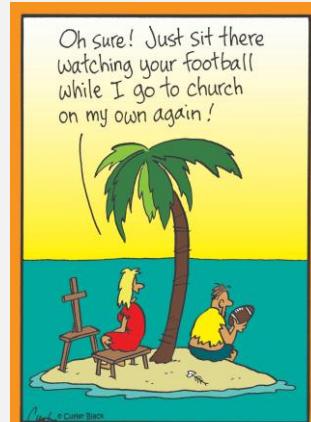
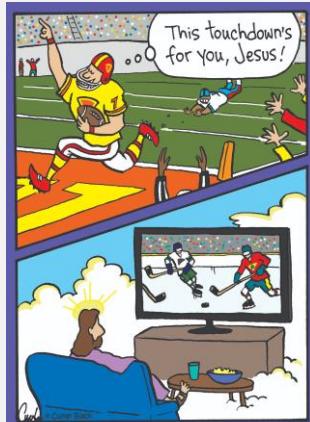
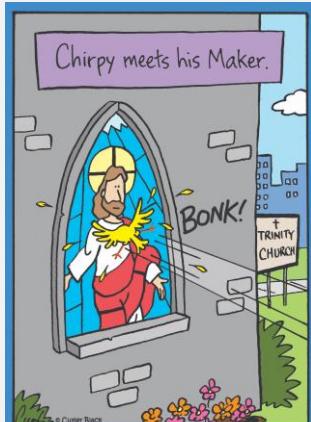
Are we all going to be asked to dig a little deeper? Yes, but no one will be asked to give more than they are able and the committee is mindful that times are tough and that inflation is making even buying a bag of milk a luxury for some. And while we will be soliciting parishioners for money, we will also be applying for grants for which our funding is eligible. I came to realize when I was fundraising for a cenotaph project that I spearheaded last year, for example, that there are various sources of grants for those that know where to look and how to apply. We will also be engaging with major donors and businesses, to "look outside the box", so to speak, and even beyond our Catholic community. We believe many people and businesses appreciate how our church contributes to community well-being and the committee will apply itself to pointing out these benefits that extend well beyond getting a tax receipt. While achieving our fundraising objective will not be easy, it can be done.

Over the past few, post-Covid, years, I've heard some say, "*Why bother?*" or "*Why not just close the church and sell it?*" I find these statements extremely offensive, even selfish. They don't take others' connections, both spiritual and personal, to Holy Angels' into account. Many have been attending our church their whole lives, indeed some families since the doors opened! Besides being a Spiritual Home, Holy Angels' also stands as a testament to Catholic perseverance.

The first Holy Angels' Church in St. Thomas (**St. Thomas Apostolic Catholic Church**) was built in 1830 and was located far to the east of the original city (then town) limits which extended from Sunset Drive to Stanley Street. The Colonel Talbot regime was not fond of us (despised, in fact) and Catholics were often given the worst land. "Swamp land" was the most common land grant given to Catholic farmers and was situated as far away from the Anglican settlements and farms as possible. As the city grew, it extended eastward and Holy Angels' stood in the way. At the time, town council did not want the Catholic church so close to the hub of city commerce so they offered twice as much land further east (close to where Dowler Karn now exists). The church rejected the offer, not wishing to disturb the cemetery associated with the building, so the city grew around us and we eventually became an integral part of this community. When the second Holy Angels' Church was built at the site it currently occupies in 1871, the city chose the opposite corner for construction of a new town hall for the growing city. A third form of the church was constructed in 1911, complete with convent, high school and rectory, and it is the one that was then more recently restored. That restoration debt has yet to be resolved. Can we now give up what are forefathers fought for? Clearly, no.

Soon we will be assigning pairs of volunteer fundraisers to venture forth seeking donations. If you know of a business or individuals who you feel might be worthwhile to approach for a donation, please let me, **Father Peter Keller, GK Harald Schraeder** or **PGK Dennis Collins** know so that we can put them on the list of potential donors. Let's all come together and wipe out the remaining debt that continues to constrain our ability to get on with necessary repairs, including our front steps and entrance. Our target is to meet and exceed this challenge by the 25th anniversary of Father Peter's ordination this coming May! It's going to require hard work and I have faith it can be done and I will keep you posted monthly about the progress of the this.

SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director





The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Feb. 2025

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



Sir Knights:

Well, here we are, Ground Hog Day. The day when a rodent predicts our weather. More importantly for us outdoor types, our days are now one hour longer and the reflective properties of snow cover seem to extend the day even further. Of course, you need to embrace the winter conditions to take full advantage of this. I'm sure many of you, including my horse, does not necessarily share my enthusiasm. So, let's bet on Wiarton Willy forecasting an early spring.

SK Henry Poirer suggested we continue our **St. Patrick's Day Potluck** which was enthusiastically passed at our last meeting. It will be held at the Columbus Club on March 16th with social from 5-6 p.m. and dinner with musical entertainment immediately following.

There will be a full **Exemplification on Saturday March 22nd**, in London Ontario. All members that have not had a full Exemplification are required to attend. Assembly members are encouraged to attend. All Ladies are welcome to attend the entire ceremony as there will not be a Ladies program. Please contact me for more information on proper dress, costs, requirements, etc.

If you can stir a pot and are not in a habit of cutting off your fingers, the soup brothers would love to have you out on the third Wednesday of every month. You will be helping to feed the less fortunate and hang out with a great bunch of guys.

Don't forget to pick up your free tickets for the **St. Thomas Stars game for Friday February 14th**. Wear your hat, shirt or coat that shows you're a Knight. Make it a night out with your family or friends and if you are not ready to go home, join us for the **Valentines Day Dance** at the Columbus Club. Don't forget the **free skate on Sunday February 9th**. Get them grandkids out and show them all your great moves. Or not!!

Our next meeting is Monday February 3rd at 7p.m., followed by Monday March 3rd. There were 23 members that attended our last meeting and I pray attendance will continue to grow. Our meetings will be kept well under an hour, which leaves plenty of time for fraternity. As Catholics, and especially as Knights, we are called to lives of charity, accompanying the vulnerable.

In the words of Mother Theresa, "**Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.**"

Fraternally yours,
SK Simon Vink, FN



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

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

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Fraternally, John P. Noonan, FIC, CPCa, 519-870-9675; john.noonan@kofc.org



To start, I would like to congratulate **Laurie Elford** for such a fantastic **Family New Year's Party**. It was a great success and, building on that, she is organizing a **Valentine's Day Dance** (see poster for details).

I would also like to thank Brothers **Roy Esbaugh** and **Dennis Walters** for all the hard work they put in for the club on a regular basis.

We're still looking for additional help around the club and especially for bartenders for our paid bookings. If you are interested, please contact **Club President Dave Warden** (warden_dave@hotmail.com)

Yours in fellowship,
SK David Elford, Vice-President

A GENTLE REMINDER ...

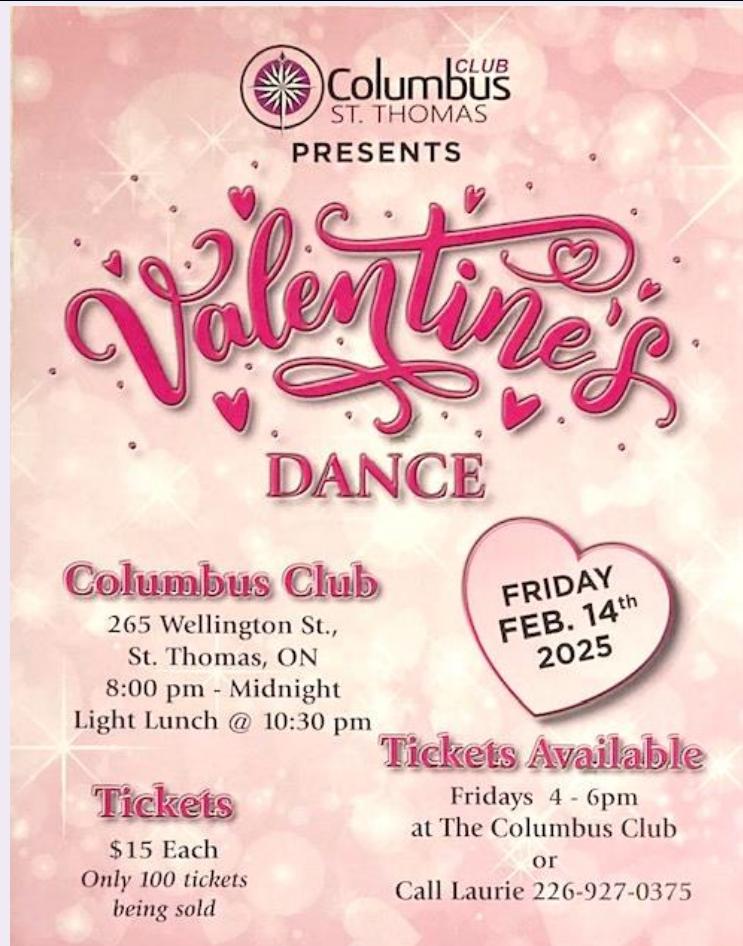
Whenever planning events at the hall, please remember to consult with Laurie Elford to ensure no conflict with any commercial or existing booking. Please do not mark your event date on the calendar in the bar without letting her know. Please also ensure you have Smart-Serve qualified volunteers to tend bar (i.e., don't assume they will be provided ... **even for fraternal events**) or, if necessary, ask Laurie to arrange to get paid bartenders for your event.

Please contact **Laurie Elford (226-927-0375)**
for all hall booking enquiries.



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