



# COMMUNION

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

March 2025



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

**Brothers:** The silence is defeating ... yes, you read that right ... not a 'typo' ... just me conveying my feelings upon not hearing from a single brother over the past month about his interest in taking on a leadership role with Council. Let's hope things get deafening this month (especially as I am hard of hearing). While we have a couple of months yet to go before nominating and electing a succeeding slate of Council Officers, I'm reminded of the phrase featured in our exemplifications: *Tempus Fugit*.

This time of the year is also marked by the onset of **Lent**, commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by the devil. As we know, it covers the 40 days (weekdays only) from **Ash Wednesday** until **Easter** and is meant to be a time for fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, focusing on repentance and self-denial. The fact that Lent, by design, only counts weekdays must give considerable comfort to those of us that want to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by holding parties on the closest weekends. *Sláinte* to that indeed!

There's a lot of information crammed into this issue so I encourage you to spend some time with it and then to pass it along to family members and friends. I can imagine that some of the articles may stimulate conversations that can help you and others explore their faith more deeply. That would be wonderful and especially if it causes you to send me (as **Communion** editor) a composition for inclusion in a future issue.

In closing and with a tip o' the cap to the season, I'll leave you with this Irish blessing: "*May God give you for every storm, a rainbow; for every tear, a smile; for every care, a promise; and a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends a faithful friend to share, for every sigh a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.*"

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
- David Warden, 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:** Laurie Elford (226-927-0375)



# Join Us!

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



Come join us on **Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Columbus Club for a Pot Luck celebration. Free admission, cocktails 5-6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and then musical entertainment.

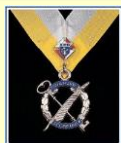
Éirinn go Brách!!

Sláinte!

## FED Scholarship 2025

Council 1467 awards two \$1,000 scholarships each spring to graduating Catholic secondary school students that will be pursuing post-secondary education. Interested students are invited to download the application and guideline at:

- <https://www.kofc1467.com/fed-scholarship>



## FS CHAT

## Membership Dues

Despite the mail strike (although about 80% of the December First Notices were hand delivered) and extension of the free membership draw eligibility, 85% of you paid by January 30th! Thank you, Brothers.

As drawn at our February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the winner of a free membership for 2026 is **Bro. Patrick Liebregts!**

## Happy March Birthdays!!!

Arthur Beaudry, Francis Dadzie Jr., James Dewan, John Ferriman, Joseph Eric, Patrick Houston, Dean Kitts, Peter O'Donnell, David O'Grady, Gary Rayner, Greg Reynaert, Wilfrid Rose, Todd Sargent, Herman Schaap, Michael Smith, Steven Wachowiak & Dennis Walters.

## Recent Charity Donations

- Holy Angels Restoration Fund
- St Anne's Capital Works
- St. Thomas YMCA
- Elgin Hospice Building Campaign

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



## JACKPOT TIME

### March Assignments

- Wed. 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 6 p.m.: Bill Walker & Dennis Collins
- Thur. 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – noon: Jim Dewan & Tom Carr

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.**

Are you looking for something to do this Lent ... if only to fill the time you used to spend on what you've given up?

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](mailto:FS1467@ontariokofc.ca) or 226-688-6060.

## MARK THE DATES MARCH EVENTS

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

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 5<sup>th</sup>: **Ash Wednesday**
- 10<sup>th</sup>: FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m. SA**)
- 16<sup>th</sup>: **St. Patrick's Day Pot-Luck (5 pm - )**
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club Directors
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Soup Brothers (**9 a.m.**)
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification (see Patriot)
- 24<sup>th</sup>: FED Business Meeting

## PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



I arise today  
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the  
Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
of the Creator of creation.

## 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 Kroeplin, 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 **Kenneth Grantham**, father of SK Bro. Kevin, 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.



# A Lesson in Staying Positive in the Face of Adversity

Otis & Lori Clifton's daughter, **Genevieve (Clifton) Kroeker**, has learned a lot about adversity and the fight to remain positive! Genevieve is a small business owner in St. Thomas who successfully manoeuvred her "**Seed Confections**" business through Covid by pivoting from a storefront based bakery and chocolate shop to an on-line shop with local delivery to her customers' doorsteps. As the pandemic was coming to a close in the fall of 2022, she was unexpectedly diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, a normally devastating diagnosis to a 37-year-old, newly married woman. Genevieve faced this life-threatening adversity with the support of her husband Matt, her family, and the strength and determination of a heavyweight boxer.

Throughout this 2-year treatment journey she and Matt made difficult decisions with life-altering consequences but always took the option that would provide the best long term outcome. They chose invasive surgery (over lump removal), chemotherapy and radiation, all followed by reconstructive surgery. She continues with five years of ongoing hormonal therapy. As she climbed up the hills and skied down to the valleys along the treatment path, she befriended many cancer patients and made a point of being available to share her fears and encouragement with them, ensuring they knew she was there to fight along side them.

Did she get discouraged and down? Of course she did, but she always regrouped, pivoted, danced and used her left hook when needed. **Instead of feeling sorry for herself, she went out of her way to help others who were going through a rough stage of their lives.** She frequently provided childcare or petcare for friends so that they could have a rest or get out for dinner and feel normal again. She gave encouragement to many who were struggling through the complexities of the health care system. She listened and supported.

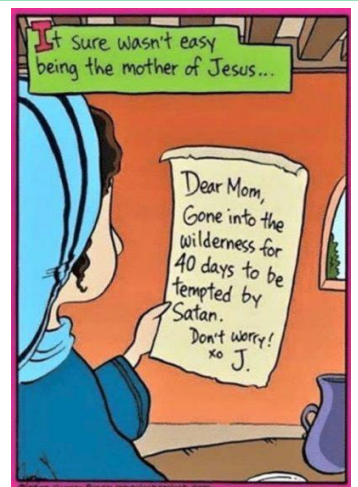
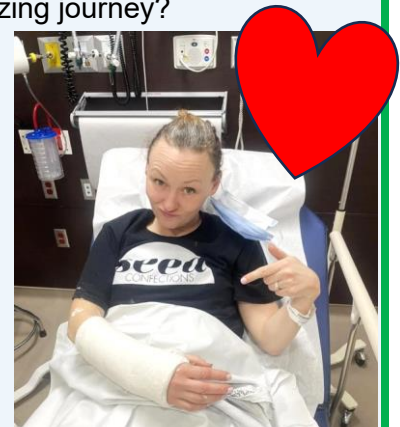
In November 2024, Genevieve decided with some friends that instead of clearing out their kids' toy boxes after Christmas they would do it beforehand. That small discussion led to her establishing the first totally free toy shop that was open to anyone that wanted to shop for free. It was an enormous success, helping so many find the perfect Christmas gifts. By January 2025, Genevieve was feeling like her old self and was out shovelling snow in front of the business when she fell on the ice and broke her right arm just above the wrist. What does an award-winning chocolatier do when she does this just before Valentines and Easter season? She put her gloves down and accepted help while recognizing "**You gotta know when to fold 'em**". Many wonderful people came to her aide through donations and manpower and, as a result, the store shelves are stocked and the doors will soon be open! Thank you! And what did we learn from watching her take this difficult but amazing journey?

***That while in every situation, as we acknowledge the bad, we can and must recognize the potential good ... and then head for the best possible outcome.***

May God Keep & Bless you, Otis & Lori Clifton

[ed.: A **GoFundMe** page has been launched to raise funds to help cover Genevieve's business expenses, debt due to lack of work during treatment and costs for physio so she can get back into the kitchen and bring us joy through all her amazing treats and community efforts. Please visit the web site:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-gen-get-back-on-her-feet-after-breast-cancer-injury>



# Catholic Men's Faith Series - 2025

Welcoming all men (16-years and older) to come together again to listen, learn, and deepen our Faith.

**WHERE:** Holy Angels Church and Hall

**WHEN:** Each day will start with **celebration of Mass at 8:00 a.m.** after which we will gather downstairs in the church for refreshments and to listen to that morning's speaker. It is expected we'll wind up by 11:30 a.m.

- **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>:** *"Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession"* (Fr. Robert Weaver)
  - **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:** *"Marian devotion leads us to Our Lord"* (Fr. John Johnson)
- **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>:** *"Discernment: How do I know it is God speaking to Me?"* (Fr. Peter Keller)

To assist in preparations, **please RSVP** your planned attendance by contacting either Bob Bray ([bob.bray@ymail.com](mailto:bob.bray@ymail.com) / 226-376-6157) or Regis Trudel ([registrudel@rogers.com](mailto:registrudel@rogers.com) / 226-688-6060).



Council facilitated some 'Family Time'



Dropping the puck at the Stars game on Valentine's Day against KW were GK Harald Schraeder, PGK Steve Blankenship (Aylmer Council), Bro. Rob Weir & GK Wil Huys (West Lorne Council)



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM

**SOUP BROTHERS:** The Soup Brothers made **89 containers** (66x24-oz / 23x32-oz) of **Ham & Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The next soup day is **Wednesday March 19<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club and all are welcome.

**ELIMINATION DRAW:** **Weekly \$50 winners for** February were: Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ticket #171, **Wayne Krosnicki**; 10<sup>th</sup>, #188, **Kelly Houston**; 17<sup>th</sup>, #33, **Roman Kuchmak**; and 24<sup>th</sup>, #179, **Ed Steer**. Congratulations to our winners so far. Good luck this month!



For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and  
this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.  
(1 John 5:4)

## We're Under Attack!

On Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, a Romanian jumped onto the Altar at St. Peter's Basilica. He defiled the altar cloth and kicked over six antique golden candlesticks causing \$34,000 worth of damage before he was apprehended. This sadly is not the first time such an occurrence has happened. In 2023, a naked man jumped up on the altar at St. Peter's holding a sign protesting the treatment of Ukrainian children. In 2019, a man threw a candlestick at the altar narrowly missing the Pope. The worst occurred in 1972 when a Hungarian named Laszlo Toth took a hammer to Michelangelo's sculpture of the Pieta, the one depicting the Virgin Mary holding the body of her crucified Son. The sculpture was repaired but can now only be viewed behind bullet-proof glass. What's next? The pope protected behind iron bars while performing Holy Mass? While we are now (and have been for a while) under attack, no one seems to care and moreover willing to step forward and put an end to them. We need look no further than our own nation to see how our beloved Catholic Church is being destroyed and attacked. **Since 2021, fully 85 Catholic churches have been damaged by vandalism or fire** (the CBC reported 33 Catholic churches had been deliberately set on fire). These acts of desecration and vandalism are so numerous that no one can give me an accurate statistic: stained-glass windows smashed, Holy statues defaced and broken, buildings spray-painted, and parishioners threatened and attacked. The list goes on. To me, the most appalling aspect of all of this is the response from public officials.

In the summer of 2021, after numerous Catholic churches had been burned to the ground, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called on Pope Francis to apologize for the way indigenous children were treated by the residential school system. He followed that up with the even more ridiculous statement that *"It's fully understandable, given the shameful history of the church."* This, in my opinion, is like a police officer blaming a rape victim for the way she was dressed or where she was at the time of the attack. The proper response from the prime minister would and should have been exactly the same when a few weeks later after an Islamic Mosque was vandalized he asserted, *"This is alarming, abhorrent and unacceptable; I strongly condemn this incident and stand with the Muslim communities against such hate."* Why are Catholic churches different than mosques or synagogues? What help can we expect when we are treated so shamefully by the leader of our nation? He basically told every wingnut out there that we're open season and they will be free from prosecution. Why is one act a hate crime and the other simply vandalism? Does he think the individuals starting the fires didn't have hate on their minds?

Another disturbing example occurred when the Catholic church of St. Catherine of Sienna in Mississauga was targeted three times in six weeks. A City-TV News reporter asked the local police where the investigation was at and if a suspect had been identified? The police gave their standard *"It's ongoing"*. The reporter followed up with his own investigation and when he spoke to church officials they informed him that they had surveillance camera footage from three different angles showing the crimes and the criminals in the act! When the shocked reporter asked the police if they were aware of this video they replied, *"Yes but it's not helpful or admissible in court."* The reporter, now outraged at the official response and lack of action, ran the film footage on the following evening's news broadcast and posted it to the station website. Within days City TV was overwhelmed with phone calls and emails identifying the criminals. And yet, no arrests have been made to date.

Catholics have been oppressed and worse in the past. Indeed, right from the beginning we were fed to lions for sport or burnt at the stake. Invading nations outlawed our faith in an attempt to restore pagan beliefs. The Islamic conquest '***At The Edge of a Blade***' conquered Spain but was eventually stopped at the gate of Vienna by the Duke and Prince of the Franks, **Charles Martel** ('The Hammer'). Then came **Martin Luther** and the bloodlust he unleashed. 'The Virgin Queen' of England, **Elizabeth I**, banned Catholicism. She was followed by **John Knox** and later by **Oliver Cromwell** and his Puritan 'Round Heads'. While the list goes on and is lengthy, we're still here.

There was a time when we set aside our differences and we all fought together against a common enemy: Evil. While the world rising up against Adolf Hitler and his Nazi thugs comes to mind, does it take such an evil to come around for us to be not seen as the enemy? Why is it still okay to torment us and destroy our places of worship? Will we have to start practicing our faith in secret, hiding in catacombs to hear Mass or building well-contrived "Priest holes" in our homes to provide refuge and sanctuary for Fathers Peter, John and Robert? I pray not.

During the 1950s and through the mid-1960s, 30 million Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Anglicans tuned in their TV sets every week to watch ***Life is Worth Living!***. The entire cast was one man, **Bishop Fulton Sheen**, and for an hour he would, without script and sometimes with the aid of a black board and chalk, tell the nation how to live a life worth living using Catholic teachings. He won 3 Emmy's, even beating out Dean Martin and Carol Burnett, as most loved TV personality. The show went into syndication and was brought back to life through re-runs into the 1970s. Where is our 'Bishop Sheen' today? People will say life is different. I think not. What is different, however, is that people are listening to misinformed charlatans with way too much money and not an ounce of sense in their God-given heads. They're not

[continued]

[Under Attack ... continued]

leading us down a path to glory but a path of hatred and delusion. Bishop Sheen led the nation away from hate and false compassion, from wrongful conduct and sin and to the glory of God.

We need two things. First, world leaders we can stand behind and are focused on the 'Common Good', placing the interests of all at the forefront of their thinking and not the self-interests of those with big bank accounts. I'm not sure if we need a 'Hammer' but it might not hurt. Second but equally, we need Church leaders who are powerful enough to do and say the right thing, unconstrained by 'political correctness' and populist rhetoric. Jesus was such a man, but for all time and not just of the moment. We could use a **Pope Leo I** who, as the horde of Huns led by Attila were approaching the gates of Rome, went out to meet them on his own and without guns, swords or the men to wield them. Going forth with the knowledge that God was with him, he turned Attila away and saved the eternal city from pillage and rape. We could use a **St. Francis of Assisi** who turned away from a life of wealth and luxury to live among and help the poor. He not only gave us Franciscan monks, but a shining example of what an ordinary man can do when he listens to the word of God when he's spoken to. Perhaps **St. Bernadette**, who withstood ridicule and hatred as she refused to renounce her visions of the Virgin Mary in the Grotto. Where is the Catholic who can make 30 or 40 million viewers turn away from sex and violence on Instagram and Tik Tok to instead listen to the way of Jesus Christ?

There is one more thing that will stop our churches from being burnt down or vandalized: us, **you and I**. We can change the way people view our faith and our Church. Together, we can show the world that we really are not '*Catholic on the outside but liars and cheats on the inside*'. If we all walk the path that Jesus wants us to walk, who can criticize us? If we are seen helping the poor, standing up to injustice or simply caring and loving one another and this world that God created for us, who can say "*It's understandable*" when a church is destroyed? We must not provide opportunities for people like Trudeau to use us as his scapegoat. A great many of us already do what I am saying and I can think of many shining examples, true Catholics in our parish, that we need to be inspired by as we try our best to do what needs to be done. While many people love to focus on the wrongs of the past, fewer seek to actually learn the real history and tend to accept 60-second sound-bites as Gospel truth. Trudeau's statement about residential schools is a prime example when lack of knowledge distorts what really happened.

While we can't (and shouldn't) change the past, we can mold the present with our collective behavior and actions to improve our future. We have a very steep hill to climb ahead of us and it's not going to be easy. We shouldn't look to elected officials for help, nor expect support from the general public, at least until they are influenced by viral social media posts showing us doing the Lord's work. We can change how we are perceived by changing ourselves and maybe there is someone among us who can be the new Fulton J. Sheen. Who knows, there might be a future Saint among us? I know I need to change and I know what I need to do more, and less, of. It won't be easy but the future of our faith and our church is depending on you and me. So, let's change the world together. May peace be with you.

SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

## Novena for Life

The Knights of Columbus Novena for Life will run **Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>** 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 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto: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'**

Fraternally, Patrick Houston

# Reflection

Courage is fire, and bullying is smoke.

Benjamin Disraeli

While the almost daily utterances of the current president of the United States, especially those that insult Canadians, may be dismissed by some like water flowing off the back of a duck, a growing number of people around the world are increasingly anxious that he will put deed to word and largely only to cause unjustifiable harm.

I can imagine people contemplating how they will cope over the next four years (possibly only half that as US mid-terms 'rebalance' things) musing, "*Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer / The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, / Or to take arms against a sea of troubles*" (Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1). Many, on the other hand, may instead use the 'checklist' provided by King Solomon (Proverbs 6:16-19), "*There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers*", to size up where the current president sits.

Whether or not you choose either approach, I would suggest current events call upon us to instead reflect seriously on *The Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5-7). And so, in that light, I offer these excerpts that may alleviate any anxiety you may be experiencing as you allow your faith, hope and charity (and any other graces God has instilled in you) to do its work. These lessons can even be a lens through which to view the tariff tiff between Canada and the US (at least with their president ... and which may or may not have come into effect by the time you read this).

- "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*" (5:6)
- "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*" (5:44-45)
- "*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*" (6:14-15)
- "*Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.*" (6:25-26, 34)
- "*Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*" (7:7)
- "*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*" (7:24-25)

An outcome of even the anticipation of 'economic warfare' impacts on Canadians has been heightened patriotic fervour on our side of the border (the folk south of it have long suffered patriotic madness). And while it can be an admirable quality in a nation's people, we need to be mindful that "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" (Proverbs 16:18) Let us remember then, that just because not everyone else adheres to the 'golden rule', that doesn't give licence to 'give as good as we take'. **Let kindness prevail.**

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Pope Francis' March Intention: For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



# Faith, what is it good for?

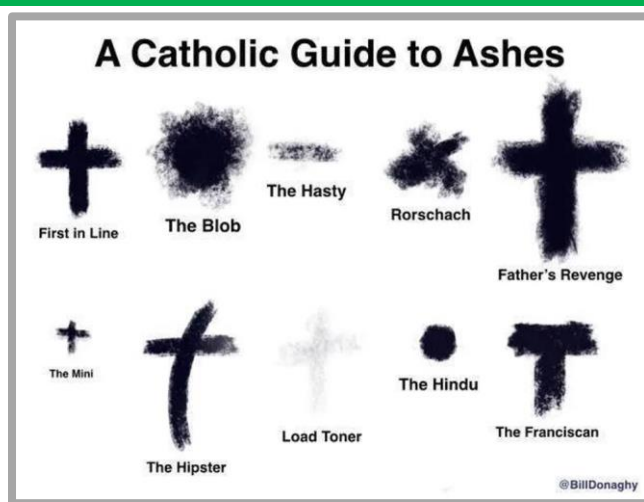
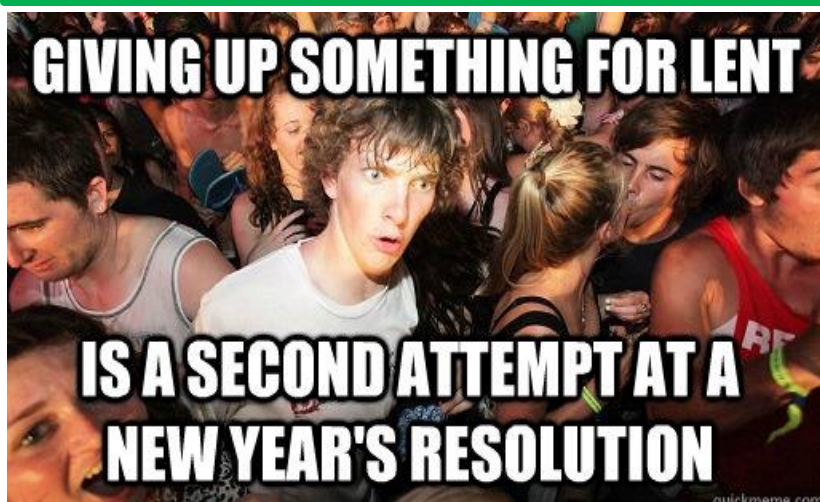
Well, here is a little testimony about my faith and what it means to me. I am a cradle Catholic, even though I dislike that term. Every time I say it or hear someone else say it, it sounds like you are entitled to something. I guess in a way we are. Eternal life, however, is earned, not entitled. As most of you know my mother passed away on January 29<sup>th</sup>, same day Fr. Keller's mother passed away. I was sad upon receiving the news ... that 6:30 a.m. call is never a good one, no matter how prepared you are. I said to Father, I could see our mother's holding hands and going to heaven together, leading each other. That is what faith is.

Faith by definition is believing in God or in the doctrines of religion based on spiritual discernment rather than proof. While I can't prove that what I said above about Father's and my mothers actually happened, all my years of hearing the Gospel and participating in mass and the sacraments means I believe it did. After all, Jesus did say, "*In My Father's house there are many rooms. And if not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*" (John 14:2). So, this is my faith and what I truly believe in: When we die, we go to heaven!

Of course, it is not that simple. We must live our lives as Jesus taught us to. As some of you remember, I lost my father in 2019 and this time with my mother it was different. My father had become my best friend and not so much my father. I had become self-sufficient and really didn't need a dad to do things for me. I greatly appreciated his friendship as our relationship grew closer as friends. My mother, on the other hand, always remained my mother. We always need our mother. My mother would pray nightly for my wife and for my family, never for her own health. This was a great example of her faith. When my father was sick and his organs began failing, I prayed every night and day asking God to heal him and make him better. And yet, the more I prayed, the sicker he seemed to get. I couldn't understand this until I spoke with Fr. Mark Poulin. I asked him why God would not help my father given I was praying and had faith that He could. Fr. Mark asked me a very simple but difficult question, "*Are you praying for your will or God's will to be done?*" It was then that I realized my faith was great in my belief that God is all loving, healing and good, but it was my will I was praying for. As soon as I changed my prayers and asked for God's will to be done and for the strength to accept God's will, my father started getting better. As an 85-year-old man with congestive heart failure, his organs began working again. He came fully off dialysis, something the doctor said he had never seen in the elderly. It gave me the faith to pray for the same this time with my mother, knowing the end was near and that no matter what I wanted, I was not in control.

The faith in knowing my parents, as faithful Catholics, are together again in heaven with Jesus makes their loss that much easier to accept. Don't get me wrong, it is still difficult. I even had tears at mass Sunday as they played a song that was one of my mother's favourites. After all, isn't our purpose here on earth to gain admittance to heaven and eternal life? While death and funerals are sad because we miss our loved ones, it is a time to celebrate our faith knowing they have reached their goal, eternal life with Jesus! I want to thank all my brother Knights and members of the CWL who took time and travelled to St. Justin's for the funeral and the celebration of life. The support was overwhelming and very comforting. Thank You! Have a good month; may God Bless you and your families!

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





# The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Mar. 2025

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



Sir Knights:

I hope everyone is enjoying this past week as temperatures sneak above zero. It is amazing how fast the snow disappears when the temperatures "soar" to plus 5 accompanied by high winds. I'm sure many of us were relieved to see the big snow piles start to disappear.

Once again, the **Soup Brothers** had a great turn out and, as always, the soup was very tasty. It is great how we can solve all the world's problems and somehow still cook up a great soup.

If you still have your cape from your old regalia and want to see it put to good use, please bring it in at a meeting. There is a group in Chatham that are using the material for shorts and other clothing to be sent overseas for the destitute. This has been brought up at a previous meeting but is worth making note of again.

There is a full **Exemplification on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Regina Mundi**. If you are reporting for the Honour Guard, you need to be there at 11 a.m. (uniform or tuxedo only). We have five Knights that are candidates that will attend. Please contact me for the registration forms and all other information. Everyone needs to register if they wish to stay for dinner (cost is \$45.00 in advance). All Ladies are encouraged to attend the event and the dinner. Dinner will be at St. Justin's parish hall at 6 p.m.

Join us on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> for a **St. Patrick's Day Potluck** followed by entertainment. Good food, entertainment, and great company! Oh, apparently green is the order of the day.

Join us for an evening of reflection and adoration with Father John on March 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's church from 7-8pm. Confession will be available at 6:30 p.m.

Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers.

**"Forgiveness is giving up the hope that the past could be any different, it's accepting the past for what it was, and using this moment and this time to help yourself move forward. The most debilitating source of pain is the struggle to forgive."** - Oprah Winfrey

Fraternally yours,  
SK Simon Vink, FN



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

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**Scribe** Case Hoffer / Rob Weir  
**Trustees** Otis Clifton / Roy Esbaugh  
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First of all, I would like to thank **Annie Walters** for her help with the weekly meat draws and for helping, whenever needed, with the cooking for the hockey fellas. To date, we have raised \$2,600 through the draws for our local food bank. Come on out on Friday evenings during the 'After 4' social to have some fun and support the cause.

The Valentine's Day dance was a hit! Thanks to **Dave & Laurie Elford** and to **Herman & Tina Rohowsky** for all your hard work and dedication to make this a fun and romantic time for all.

Our club is moving in the right direction with bookings ... an injection of life has been brought back to the Columbus Club and we again thank Laurie ... you're doing a great job.

We have lots to look forward to in the future of the Columbus Club.

Sincere Regards,  
Brother Dennis Walters, Director

## 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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