



# COMMUNION

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

December 2025



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



**Brothers:** For my **Christmas** message to you, I 'gift' to you the words of **St. Paul** (Romans 12):

*I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. For as in one body, we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; **love one another with brotherly affection**; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing, you will heap burning coals upon his head." **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

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, 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 Order has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and approaching 2 million members. 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 2025-26

- Harald Schraeder, Grand Knight  
[gk1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk1467@ontariokofc.ca)
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- John Kana, Deputy GK
- Patrick Houston, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- Donald Henry, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- Peter Kuntz, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Steve Wachowiak, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Jim Dewan, Trustee (1 yr.)
- Michael Kilborn, Inside Guard
- David Primeau, Outside Guard
- E.J. Adiole, 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:** [www.kofc1467.com](http://www.kofc1467.com)


**ADMIN:** David Primeau

**COLUMBUS CLUB BOOKING:** Laurie Elford (226-927-0375)



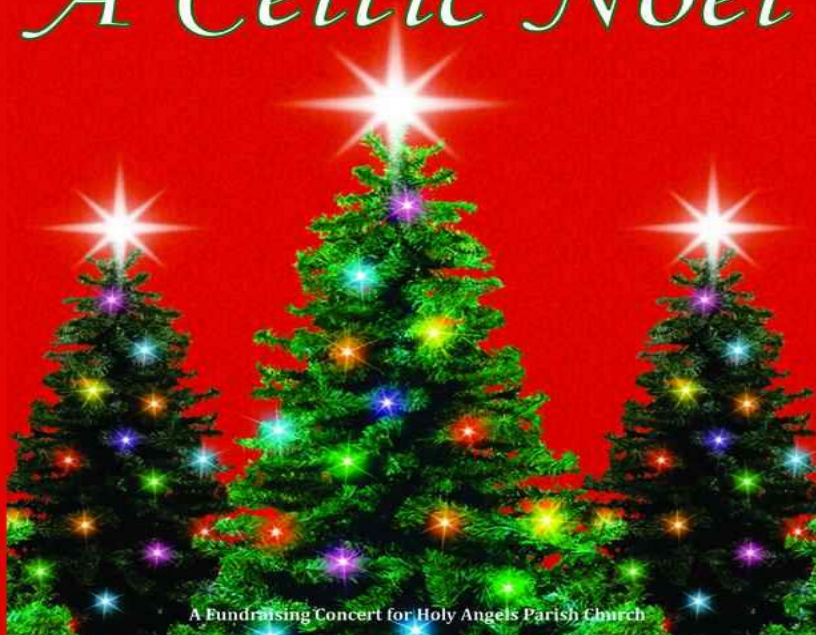
# Join Us!

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



**CANADIAN  
celtic choir**  
SONGS TO TOUCH YOUR HEART AND WARM YOUR SPIRIT  
Paul Grambo, conductor ~ Stephen Holowitz, accompanist

# *A Celtic Noel*





A Fundraising Concert for Holy Angels Parish Church

**Friday, December 12, 2025 - 7:30 pm**  
(Doors open at 7:00 pm)

Holy Angels Parish Church, 502 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

**Tickets \$30**

Available at the Parish Office, 20 Morrison Dr, St. Thomas (519-631-3640)  
and online at [celticchoir.ca](http://celticchoir.ca)



Scan to Buy Tickets



# FS CHAT

The **Fraternal Dues Notices** for 2026 will be sent out by mail on December 15<sup>th</sup> and prompt payment will be greatly appreciated before January 15, 2026. Membership Cards for 2026 will be available at all Business Meetings. **NOTE: Every Brother whose payment is received by January 15, 2026 will be entered into a draw for a FREE MEMBERSHIP for 2027!**

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

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

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2026!

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

**Have you moved or changed your contact information?** If you change your home address, email address or phone numbers, please remember to email your updates to [FS1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:FS1467@ontariokofc.ca).





## December Assignments

- Mon. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3 p.m.: Al Baca & Carl Pearson
- Sun. 28<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 5 p.m.: Jim Dewan & 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.**

## MARK THE DATES DECEMBER EVENTS

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

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Bishop J. C. Cody Assembly meeting
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m. @ SA**)
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Turkey Raffle Draw (**5 p.m.**)
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Knights & Ladies Annual Dinner (**see poster**)
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Council Executive meeting
- **12<sup>th</sup>: MEGA MEAT DRAW (during 'After 4')**
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Celtic Christmas Choir (**see poster**)
- **15<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club Directors meeting ?**
- 25<sup>th</sup>: **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 31<sup>ST</sup>: NYE Family Party (**6-9 p.m.**)

**N.B.: NO COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING OR SOUP THIS MONTH.**

### January:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Day Levee (**details TBD**)
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club AGM (**9:30 a.m.**)

Time-sensitive announcements can be e-blasted to members, please email your message to GK Harald Schraeder ([gk1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk1467@ontariokofc.ca)).

## Ladies Auxiliary

The halls have been decorated and anticipation is building! **The Knights of Columbus & Ladies Christmas Dinner** is close at hand. If you haven't got your tickets yet, we need the numbers for our caterer, so don't wait! The date is December 7<sup>th</sup>. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and you don't want to miss out. It will be a wonderful evening with friends, good food, great music, and many blessings.

Thank you also to those who came out to help decorate the club on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. With all of you, it didn't take long and the hall once again looks beautiful. Thank you for your dedication. May the peace and joy of Christmas be with all of you.

Blessings,  
Sandi Hoffer, Past President



## For the Good of the Order

**If you know, or are, a brother experiencing emotional, physical, spiritual or economic distress, please contact the Grand Knight. All such contacts shall be confidential.**

## Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Gary Beckwith, Ray Bernicky's mother Marion, Maurice Brennan, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Dino DeAngelo, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin & Marilyn Evers, Jean Goddeeris, Adam Hicknell's Oma, John Jakobi Sr, Fr. Johnson's mother, Jim Kennedy's wife Pauline, Michael Kilbourne, Dean Kitt's wife Ria, Carl & Barb Kroepelin, John & Debra ('Deb') Laverty, Michael Lukasik, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Larry McCaffery's brother Leo, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Peter Sowinski, Darryl Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, John Thomas, Joe & Joan Vachon, Louie Van Hooydonk's brother Marcel, Steve Wachowiak, Rob Weir, and Priests & ERCFP staff. 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 have been 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.



Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 presents

# TURKEY RAFFLE 2025



**Win a \$50 gift certificate**

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

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

## Tickets are \$5 each!!!

Only 250 available & available, while supplies last, from:

- Columbus Club (519-631-2166)
- Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)
- Steve Wachowiak (226-984-9563)
- John Goossens (519-631-3118)
- Fric's Car Repair (253 Edward Street, 519-631-6042)

Draws will take place at the Columbus Club  
265 Wellington Street, St. Thomas  
at 5 p.m. on Friday Dec. 5, 2025

City of St. Thomas  
Raffle Permit # M875184

## The Ladies Auxiliary and the Knights of Columbus

Cordially Invite all Knights and Ladies from our Family of Parishes  
to Our Annual

**Turkey and Roast Beef Christmas Dinner.**

**Catered by the Back Alley**

**Cash Bar**

**Date: Sunday December 7th, 2025**

**Venue: Columbus Club, 265 Wellington St., St. Thomas**

**Time: Cocktails: 5:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.**

**Entertainment by: Brian May**

**Dress: Formal / Semi Formal**

**Ticket Price: \$40.00 per person**

**Tickets available from:**

**The Columbus Club: Phone: 519-631-2166**

**Lorraine: Phone: 519-859-0409**

**Harald: Phone: 519-318-4189**

**Simon: Phone: 519-643-6676**

**Deadline for Ticket: Sunday November 27th, 2025**

**Advanced Ticket Sales Only**



## Walkathon Report

Brother Steve Miloloza, project coordinator, is pleased to report that **\$2,405.00** was raised for the **St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank** through the 2025 walkathon that was held on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>.

He appreciates the generosity of the many individuals and businesses (**Briwood Farm Market** & **Pharmasave**) that made pledges and donated to this worthy cause, and extends his special thanks to the canvassers: **John & Betty Kana, Pat West, Joe Fric, Harald Schraeder.**

In the photo (L-R): **John Kana, Roy Esbaugh, Douglas Mactavish, Karen McDade & Steve Miloloza.**



## Holy Help Wanted

Brother Knights, your commitment to service & faith is a powerful witness to our parish community, and Holy Angels' Church invites you to consider deepening that witness by becoming a **Eucharistic Minister** or **Lay Reader**.

These sacred roles offer a meaningful way to participate more fully in the liturgy, sharing the Word of God and the Body of Christ with fellow parishioners. Your presence at the altar and ambo would be a blessing to all, reflecting the values of charity, unity, and fraternity that define the Knights of Columbus. If you feel called to serve, please reach out to the parish office or contact **Bro. Dennis Collins** ([dtcollins@rogers.com](mailto:dtcollins@rogers.com)).

# CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN 2025

**Bro. Patrick Houston** is again coordinating 2-hr shifts to fill the calendar of sales dates. He asks all members, including those whom in the past have abundantly given their time as volunteers but may not be up to the challenge this year, to contact him and ask other brothers, family and friends to contact him directly to schedule a convenient shift and in a way that covers them all.

Sales began Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> and will continue until the stock is sold. The schedule is available at the shed by the tree lot next to the club and **brothers are welcomed to drop by to visit and check to see if there are shifts yet to be filled that they can cover.**

Thanks to all our members and past volunteers for the support you have given us through the years and especially this Christmas season.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM

**SOUP BROTHERS:** The Brothers made **92 24-oz containers** of **Butternut Squash & Vegetable** soup on Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> for the St. Thomas-Elgin Food Bank (The Caring Cupboard). The next soup day is **Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club, and all brothers are welcome!

**MIGRANT WORKERS MINISTRY:** The Diocese's **Migrant Workers Ministry** provides an opportunity for Migrant Workers from Mexico to attend a monthly Spanish mass and enjoy a dinner with fellow workers from the area. Locally, we organize drivers to take workers from **Canadale Nursery** to a **monthly Sunday evening Spanish mass & dinner at St. Mary's in West Lorne**. If you are able to occasionally assist to drive them to and from St Mary's, as well as enjoy the dinner, please contact **Bro. Regis Trudel**.

**ELIMINATION DRAW:** Tickets for this annual project are sold out. Your \$40 ticket includes the May 22<sup>nd</sup> dinner and weekly draws for a \$50 prize which will begin Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> and each Monday thereafter until the main draw during the dinner (and, yes, weekly winners go back into the drum for the main draw).

**TURKEY RAFFLE:** The draw will take place during the Friday 'After 4' social at the Columbus Club on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the winners of the five (5) **\$50.00 Turkey Shoppe gift certificates** will be contacted immediately afterwards. The winners will be published in January's **Communio**. The net proceeds of the draw will be deposited in Council's Charity account.

**CELTIC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Please see the poster in this issue for details about this fundraising event at Holy Angels' Church with proceeds going to the building fund.

## 2025 POPPY CAMPAIGN

A big thank you to **Brothers Rick Borecki, Tom Carr, Murray Clarke, Roy Ewart, Donald Henry, Case Hoffer, Tom Hovorka, John Kana, Ron Lapchinski, Peter VerGeer & Bill Walker**. This year we sold poppies at Giant Tiger, Joe Thornton Complex and BMO. Your willingness to help out was greatly appreciated.

**Bro. Don Nolan**, Poppy Campaign Chair



## Knights of Columbus Weekly Rosary

Every Tuesday at 1 p.m., Brother Knights join together on ZOOM to pray the Knights' Spiritual Rosary. If you would like to join, please email Bro. Regis ([fs1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:fs1467@ontariokofc.ca)) to request the weekly ZOOM link.



# Living In The Eternal Love of Christ

**Brothers in Christ:** This message is not going to focus on the Commercial Christmas but instead on God's gifts to Mankind (His only Son our Lord Jesus Christ): the blessing we see in the sunrise of each new morning, our daily bread that physically nourishes our bodies, and every little thing that He provides for our spiritual nourishment including the benefit of starting each day well before the sun rises. I appreciate the blessings that God gives me and each of us through early morning prayers for our spiritual nourishment for God's guidance when planning our goals for the day ahead. Spending time alone with God in quiet worship and prayer is the key to faith and the success of a faith-based life. Let us then start every new day in prayer for the new gift that God has given us. Morning can be a time to remember God's renewing grace and faithfulness. Morning prayer, in the early hours of each new day, is the time to seek God's divine wisdom and to trust in God's direction for our lives and for His deep and unwavering love for each of us. We should also end each day with prayer. Let prayer be the final act of your day as you surrender to God's will. There is a peace that comes in ending your day in prayer that you will wake up to the New Day that God has made with your first thoughts turned to praising Him, "**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all things will be added to you**" (Mathew 6:33).



Many of the most successful men and women in history spent their early hours alone with God in prayer. We see it with most of the successful men of today. Charlie Kirk is said to have started his day at 3 a.m. with prayer. We saw it with the Prophets of the Old Testament. We saw it with the disciples of the new testament. Most importantly, we saw it with Jesus in His early mornings, "**And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed**" (Mark 1:35). Jesus would go to secluded places like the mountains, gardens, or wilderness to have intentional one on one time with God, free from distractions. King David also went out in the quiet of the early hours to a quiet place of prayer. These serve as examples of the importance of seeking time in the early hours to have time alone time in prayer. Many Catholics try to get to Mass early while the church is still dark and to kneel in prayer to have time alone in God's temple. Free from distractions. God's temple is a place to be quiet during early prayer; a time to recharge the spirit of the Lord in your heart. The Lord calls us to not only live in His spirit but to grow and mature in it. This is one of God's gifts we can gain from a prayerful life lived according to His and that of ourselves. "**In the early morning, O Lord, you will hear my voice**" (Psalm 5:3). Morning is the quiet at the beginning of your new day; the time to give all praise and glory to God in his righteousness. Let the early hours of the morning be the time for transition from sorrow to joy.

God calls on us to grow and mature in our faith as we grow older. While seniors can still be very effective workers of God's harvest, we should not underestimate the level of spiritual maturity in our young people. God calls many young people to be his workers. The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Young believers can do much in God's harvest fields and service to others is the best way for a young person to grow in faith. You can go into volunteering to help others and quickly learn that you are the one who benefits by growing in your own faith. We should attend as many early Masses as we can. Arrive early to have time for silent prayer. We should make regular confessions, another time for quiet time in prayer alone with the Lord. We can pray silently before receiving communion and upon listening to every word spoken by the priest in the gospel message. We can also pray silently while watching the celebrant hold the bread and wine up in his hands for the blessing. To me, Communion is the most important moment of the day. Now is the time to talk about bread, God's provision for our physical needs.

The Old Testament scripture tells us that a jar of Manna was kept as a memorial (Exodus 16:33). The Israelites consumed manna for forty years until they reached and settled land near the border of Canaan. Manna was provided daily, with the instruction to gather only what was needed for that day, except for the sixth day when a double portion was gathered for the Sabbath (Exodus 16: 4-6). God tells Moses He will rain bread from heaven, and the people should gather enough for each day to test their obedience. The Biblical account of Manna is primary in Exodus. After the Israelites left Egypt, they complained about a lack of food in the wilderness and, in response, God promised, "**I will rain bread from heaven for you**" (Exodus 16:4). The New Testament tells us, "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God**" (Mathew 4:4). The Catholic Host is the unleavened bread used in Eucharist, believed to become the body of Christ after the priest's consecration during mass. It commemorates Jesus's body given as a sacrifice and receiving it is known as Holy Communion. The term host comes from the Latin **hostia** or "sacrificial victim". Any hosts left at the end of communion are stored in the

[continued]

[Living in the Eternal Love ... cont'd]

locked tabernacle. While few men would start their day without breakfast and a morning coffee, God also calls believers to be nourished by His word. As we eat every day, we should seek God every day. So, yes, nourish your body but also spend every early morning alone with our Lord in quiet prayer to nourish the spirit. Hold strong to the teachings of our faith. Faith is believing in your heart what you cannot see with your eyes. Seek eternal life where you will see with your eyes what you always believed in your heart. As a young man I was lucky enough to have been raised by parents of deep faith who taught me that I must always be ready to pray and to share my faith with others. Today, I may tap a fellow believer on the shoulder and ask if they are OK. I may share with them that I believe they need my prayer. Fellow believers must always be ready to help one another when one is in a time of need.

It is time now to talk about the hours before the sun comes up. This is an amazing time to spend time alone with the Lord. If you wake up at this hour, do not be upset. It is the hour when you have no interruptions and your mind and spirit are fresh for the New Day that the Lord has made. For many, it is the time for the deepest prayer alone with the Lord. An hour to pray and also to listen. The pre-dawn silence is the time for listening. I wake up early every morning which I believe is a sign that God has plans for me in the near future and that he is preparing me for His work. It is a time to wake up spiritually and to welcome a new day that the Lord has made. In the early morning hours, the spirit is hungry. God made you. Trust in Him to make you whole. Thank God for His blessings. It is the time to seek God's guidance for your day. The early hours are the time to believe deeper in God's powers and to trust in His will and not in our own. Choose kindness when it matters most. Share God's love. Seeds, once planted, will grow in due season. Thank God for His blessings. Again, it is time to seek God's guidance: if you are a Godly young man who may be considering the priesthood, pray and ask others to pray for you. Seek God's guidance. The Lord needs Godly young men to answer His calling.

To the young women: God gives great honor to young mothers. There is no greater amount of joy than seeing a young mother and father holding a new baby. The bible describes parenting as a duty to raise children in the 'training and instruction of the Lord' (e.g., Ephesians 6:4), teaching children about God, a righteous life and to provide for their needs. Treat children with love and compassion, similar to how God treats us, His children. The impact of early guidance is well known. And to the young men: be responsible. The world desperately needs Godly young men to be husbands and fathers. Bring your children to mass. Do not let that be only your wife's job. The man is the head of the household and must be responsible in providing and raising Godly children. So, rise early with gratitude and ready for God's purpose. Thank God for the people you love. To all: Ask God to give you a heart that will allow you to walk in a way that helps those in need. Take time to listen to their story and then be their sister or brother. We see them all around us. It's time to reach out and help them. There are many amazing caring people who already volunteer and help in our community. Thank You. The need is great and we need more workers.

When the sun rises early in the morning we see God's hand at work. This message was written in the early morning hours. All blessings come from the work that God can do through us. Our last act of each day should always be submitting our will to God in prayer. Our first act of each new day should be giving all Glory to God in His righteousness. I wish to leave you with two timely passages from the Old Testament. The first is from my favorite prophet, Micah, the sixth prophet of scripture (Micah 5:2), "**But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.**" The second is from the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6), "**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

My January message is going to be a review on homelessness in St Thomas. I now want to wish everyone a very joyful day of celebrating the Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and I look forward to seeing you at Midnight Mass.

Douglas Mactavish, Faith Director 🙏

Pope Leo's December Intention:  
For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

# Reflection

***"And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord'" (Luke 2:10-11).***



***"All the people"*** ... except, one supposes, King Herod, Romans generally, the elite among Israel (Pharisees & Sadducees) ... and very likely a lot of other folks living in parts of the world faced with their own pressing matters, or worshipping a pantheon of other Gods, or otherwise just trying to get by in spite of oppressive regimes and whatever else they have to deal with [Cue: *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Conquest, War, Famine, and Death); themselves dodging disease, flood, fire, volcano and earthquake as they gallop merrily along.*] Be not afraid, indeed.

And yet, things can be (and definitely have been) worse. One may imagine what life must have been for The Chosen People, living under Roman rule, that required God's herald angels to be dispatched to cheer them up, with heavenly hosts singing on high no less. Even so, would any have wanted to trade places with their future kinfolk subjected to persecution in the Middle Ages, during late 19th century Russian pogroms, by early- to mid-20th century Nazis, or even by current antisemitic activity by individuals or as state-sponsored? I hear you: "Geez ... Take a chill pill, bro."

I suppose Jesus' words to His disciples, just before His last Passover (taken from Luke 21), have affected my current state of mind: ***"And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified; for this must first take place, but the end will not be at once."*** He then continued with, ***"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven"*** (21:9-11). And finally, ***"You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; you will be hated by all for my name's sake"*** (21:16-17). Not one to sugar-coat things was Our Saviour. Credit the disciples for not baling out on Him then and there.

Neither was Jesus some sort of Galilean 'Debbie Downer'. His ominous 'reality check' speech to His disciples really ought to be viewed through the lens of His prayer for them (see: John 17) which is generally considered to be the source of the Christian principle, ***"We are called to be in this world, not of it"***. It is widely held to be a guide for us as we experience our lives in a secular world, with its various and sundry "tumults", to remind us to remain true to our faith and to ***"be not afraid"*** while doing so. For those that took in the recent **Men's Faith Series**, you likely came away with at least this: *I'm going to die, my time on earth is intended to be dedicated to preparing to face God when He welcomes me into heaven.* Ultimately, we are called to be in this world as instruments of God's love, to give priority to serving others rather than our own self-interests, until called home.

As you know, **Advent** is the time we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas and for His return at the 'Second Coming'. During this time, let us reflect on the above principle so as not to become wound up in secular priorities. Let us remember to stay true to our faith as we observe the reason for the season, namely, everything leading up to and including **Christ's Mass**. Spend some time in prayer as you spend your treasure on gifts. You'll thank me for reducing your seasonal stress brother 😊

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



**Grand Knight Harald Schraeder** welcomed **Brother Chris Baum** to his first Council meeting on Monday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Brother Chris completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification on-line with the assistance and accompaniment of **Brother Rob Weir**.

Bro. Chris is a recent graduate of the RCIA and was mentored by Bro. Rob. Bro. Chris and family are St. Anne's parishioners and they are looking forward to meeting many more of his fellow Knights and participating in Council activities.





## Catholic Corner

**Faith:** As a *cradle catholic*, I was taught that the church is based on *faith*. But what does that really mean?

Faith, according to one definition, *is a strong belief in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof*. Growing up, it meant: “*Believe what the church believes and don’t question it*”, or so my mom would say. As Father Peter mentioned during a recent Sunday homily, “*Faith is trust*”: trust in God as the master of the universe and all time and space, trust that God has a plan for me, and trust that although I may not know or understand His, my trust in Him is well-placed.

My faith journey really began a few years ago when I started to question why, really, was I attending mass on Sundays. It seemed to me there had to be so much more. Each week I would go to mass (mainly because my mother told me I had to) but then walk out at the end to go about my weekly business until the next Sunday, when I would start all over again. Wash, rinse, repeat, I would say. As I began questioning my faith, I prayed to God to show me more of Him and what His plans are for me. *Why am I here? What is my purpose?* At around that time, I was asked to join **The Search**, which put me right where I needed to be. I **was** searching and now I was invited to **The Search**. While it seemed my prayers had been answered, I was in fact being led to more questions and a deepening of my faith. Through The Search, and related RCIA programs, I have begun being more prayerful and, by being such, feeling closer to God. I am very blessed to be part of the RCIA team, as I see the face and love of God through team members, especially **Laura Lee**, the leader. God has placed me exactly where I need to be to grow my faith and I am so grateful and thankful. In trusting the Lord, I have come to appreciate how **God has put me where I need to be exactly when I need to be there**. I firmly believe that, and it has allowed me to see what God has planned for me. It all began with belief. Belief that God is always with me, puts me where I need to be and, in trusting Him, I am blessed.

We are all blessed if we are open to belief and trust in our Lord and His will for us. While this past year has been a great challenge for me and my family, my growing trust in the Lord has allowed me to not only survive but also to thrive. Recently (and embarrassingly), I was told by several family and friends that I reflect God’s light and goodness. I don’t think of myself as such because I know I am a sinful person and struggle daily. As embarrassing as it was to hear, it was a real comfort and blessing to understand people are seeing the power of faith and trust in the Lord through me. I must be doing something right. But I cannot take the credit since it is the Lord working through me and all because of my trust in Him. It’s become simple for me: The more I trust and believe in the Lord, the more blessed I am.

Open your heart and soul to the Lord completely and begin seeing the many blessings the Lord has for each one of us. God Bless!

Yours in Faith,  
SK Bro. Rob Weir 🙏



# The Elgin Patriot



Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / December 2025

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

Sir Knights:

What a busy month November was. Thank you to all our Sir Knights that spend so much time putting in so many hours supporting the Royal Canadian Legion, Salvation Army, Christmas tree sales, Remembrance Day, Jackpot Time, Dinners, Soups, and the list goes on. So many organizations and people depend on us.

November is also the month that we remember all those that have been called to be with our Lord. The **Memorial Mass at Holy Angels'** (see group photo below) was well attended, and we all met downstairs for coffee and cake. May they rest in peace. We pray for Mother Mary's intercession and to comfort those left behind. This is also a good time to be reminded to pray for and visit all those that cannot come out and participate in all we do.

Our next meeting is on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7 p.m. A light snack will be provided.

The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds living in the fields and keeping the night watch over the flock. The glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.**" (Luke 2:10-12)

**"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6)

Keep in mind during the holiday season, amidst all the merriment, gift giving, and family gatherings, that Jesus is the reason for the season. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Simon Vink, FN



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

**Faithful Friar** Fr. Peter Keller

**Pilot** Francis Dadzie

**Scribe** Rob Weir (Case Hoffer alt.)

**Trustees** Otis Clifton / Tom Carr /  
Steve Wachowiak

**Navigator** Simon Vink

**Admiral** Jim Coveny

**Purser** Jim Dewan

**Sentinels** Don Nolan / John Kana /  
Peter de Jonge

**Captain** Dennis Collins

**Comptroller** Orio Ortins

**Website & Historian** Martin Evers

**Commander** Michael Butler Jr.





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Laurie Elford  
226-927-0375



## ~~ Merry Christmas from the Columbus Club ~~

If you've dropped by recently, you'll see we've been **sprucing** things up with paint and **pruning** the décor.

We're planning to resurrect the **New Years Levee** ... stay tuned for details!

Rentals are busy so please be sure to contact **Laurie Elford** early (and often) to secure your dates.

Also, make plans to drop into **your** club every Friday afternoon for the **'After 4' Social**.

Enjoy some good times connecting with friends over a beverage and complimentary snacks.

Faternally,

SK Dave Elford, Vice President

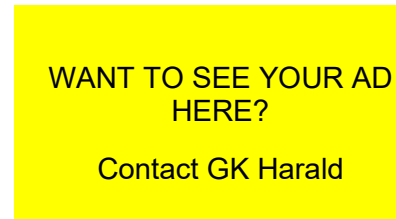
# MEGA MEAT DRAW

A special **MEGA MEAT DRAW** will be conducted during the **Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> 'After 4'** at the Columbus Club featuring a wide variety of delicious meats.

# NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Everyone is welcome to ring in 2026 at the **Columbus Club's Family NYE Party** on Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 9 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$10 for Adults, \$5 for children, and no cost for children 2 yrs-old or younger.

There'll be music, games and prizes with all proceeds to be donated to St Thomas' **Animal Aide**.





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