



COMMUNION

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

January 2026



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers: I wish you a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year! May you receive God's daily blessings as you dish out kindnesses in turn to all you meet. Like many of you, I'm not one for making New Year's resolutions. I'd like to say it's because I think actions speak louder than words but truth be told I'm just not interested (which must shock a lot of you that know how much I tend to use words, a virtual 'Mr. Talks Lot, Says Little').

Recent history and current world events do not bode well for 2026 to have many redeeming qualities (says the pragmatic optimist). And yet, that actually provides us a lot of 'up-side' **to serve, to participate, to engage, and to encourage** our fellow brothers, our kin and kindred, and total strangers. How so? Well, to turn our individual and collective attention to 'pastoring' ("*drawing out the gifts of others*"), something that our pastor, **Fr. Peter Keller**, has deemed essential to development of Lay Leadership in fulfilment of the parish's mission to save *all* the souls of Elgin County. We will serve Fr. Peter best when we actively help others to first know, then to serve, and ultimately to love God. This has to become our priority for the year ahead and beyond.

I hear you: "*Sounds like a lot of work.*" Possibly. Except the dividend of "*drawing out the gifts of others*" may have the desired effect of relieving your own load and, [*spoiler alert for my Reflection in this issue*] contrary to the popular adage, it's happiness that company actually loves. A good first step would be to review parish bulletins for upcoming events or activities and make the effort to attend or participate in some.

Am I just calling for a mass recruitment campaign? Most certainly not. Of course, we're always open to new members, especially those men that ask us about what inspires us to do **what they see us doing** instead of us telling them about it afterwards. I am asking for you and our fellow brothers to get involved in parish-related activities, to support others doing their parts to grow the Faith as well.

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
- 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)

WEB SITE LINK: 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>



Catholic Men's Faith Series

LET'S COME TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEN
TO LISTEN, LEARN, AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH.
(Welcoming all men 16 and older.)

BE A MAN !

"Becoming The Man God Created You to Be"
(A video series in 5 sessions)
By Father Larry Richards
"A captivating preacher & a favourite at men's conferences."

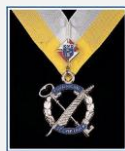
Where: Holy Angels Church and Hall

When: Mass at 8:00 a.m., then gather downstairs for refreshments and our morning's session, ending by 11:30.

Saturday January 24th
Saturday February 14th
Saturday February 28th
Saturday March 14th
Saturday March 28th

To assist in preparation, we would appreciate you notifying us of your planned attendance by contacting:

Bob Bray	bob.bray@ymail.com	226-376-6157
Regis Trudel	registrudel@rogers.com	226-688-6060



FS CHAT

DUES ARE DUE

Thank you to Brothers who have paid their 2026 dues. For those who have yet to, please do so before the end of January or we will have to incur further costs to mail out the second notice. **All Brothers' dues received before January 27th will be eligible for a draw for one free membership for 2027.** Your 2026 membership cards can be picked up at our monthly Business meeting.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Ejike Adiole, Chris Baum, Bob Beausoleil, Tom Carr, Jim Coveny, William Finnigan, Adam Hicknell, Patrick Liebrechts, Robert Netherton, Don Nolan, John Nolan, Joseph O'Connor, Nick Ostojic, Art Perrier, Joe Vachon & Henry Valks.

Fraternally, Regis Trudel, 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.



January Assignments

- Tues. 6th, 3 - 5 p.m.: Otis Clifton & Roy Ewart
- Wed. 14th, 9 - 11 a.m.: Jim Dewan & Bill Walker
- Fri. 23rd, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Tom Carr & Dennis Collins

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 JANUARY EVENTS

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

- 1st: New Year's Day Levee (**1-4 p.m.**)
- 5th: Bishop J. C. Cody Assembly meeting
- 7th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m. @ SA**)
- 10th: Columbus Club AGM (**9:30 a.m.**)
- 12th: Council Executive meeting
- 19th: Columbus Club Directors meeting
- 21st: Soup Brothers (**9 a.m.**)
- 24th: Men's Faith Series (**HA @ 8 -11:30 a.m.**)
- 26th: FED Council Business meeting

Upcoming in February:

- 14th: Men's Faith Series (HA @ 8 -11:30 a.m.)
- 21st: Pot Roast Dinner (4:30 p.m. -)
- 27th: Knights with the Stars hockey game

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

Ladies Auxiliary

On December 7th, the annual **Knights & Ladies Christmas Party** was held. A delicious Turkey and Roast Beef dinner was provided by the **Back Alley**, and musical entertainment was provided by **Brian May** and the **Stronger Than The Storm Choir**. **Father Peter** offered grace and blessed our new Nativity Scenes. The Ladies Auxiliary decorated the hall and tables were set beautifully to add to your enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening a very enjoyable one.

On a more somber note, we will be taking the Christmas decorations down on the first Sunday in January. It is a little earlier this year, since work is going to take place in the hall and we would like to protect our beautiful decorations for future use. **Please meet at the hall on Sunday, January 4th at 12:30 p.m.** to help with this.

As no one has stepped forward, I will continue to liaise with the Knights and Columbus Club as they need assistance, so news from the Auxiliary will be ad hoc. Thank you for all your assistance over the past 4 years.

Sandi Hoffer, Past President, Ladies Auxiliary

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Gary Beckwith, Ray Bernicky's mother Marion, Rick Borecky, 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 Kroeplin, John & Debra ('Deb') Laverty, Michael Lukasik, Douglas Mactavish, 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, especially **Bernard Pay**, father of Kelly / father-in-law of Bro. Patrick Houston, 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.



POT ROAST DINNER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST, 2026

Hosted by Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467, Knights of Columbus

We'll be serving delicious, slow-cooked **Pot Roast of Beef**, with Yorkshire, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables & dessert at the **Columbus Club**, 265 Wellington Street.

Take-Out: 4:30 - 5:00 P.M.
Dine-In: 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Tickets \$22 / person

ADVANCE ONLY (while available)

- Columbus Club (519-631-2166)
- Ray Bernicky (519-207-3168)
- Roy Ewart (519-719-7693)
- Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)



KNIGHT WITH THE STARS

Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 will again be partnering with our Aylmer and West Lorne Council brothers to provide complimentary tickets to the **St. Thomas Stars** game on Friday February 27th. Tickets will soon be available for Council members to distribute to local families and friends.

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.

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).

CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN 2026

Another successful year of Christmas Tree Sales has been completed!!

We extend an especially BIG THANK YOU to **Brothers Henry Valks, John Lavery, Patrick Houston, Dennis Walters**, and all those who helped to set up, sell the trees and clean up.

We also thank the Columbus Club for the use of their debit machine to facilitate 60% of the sales.

May we all have enjoyed a Merry Christmas with family and friends as we look forward to a Happy & Healthy 2026!



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The next soup day is **Wednesday January 21st**, 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: December's weekly \$50 winners were: December 1st, Ticket #278, **Barb Ewart**; 8th, #98, **Christina O'Connor**; 15th, #252, **Steve Blankenship**; 22nd, #122, **Roy & Joelle Armstrong**; & 29th, #25, **Sarah Coleman**. Weekly draws will continue weekly until the last one on May 18th before the Elimination Draw on Friday May 22nd at the Columbus Club. A running list of weekly winners is posted at the club for anyone wishing to see the winners.

POT ROAST DINNER: We always sell out so it's not too early to get your tickets while supplies last for another great dinner social at the Club on Saturday February 21st. Take-out can be picked up for 4:30 – 5 p.m. with sit-down dinner service running from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Tickets are now available for \$22 per person and can be obtained at the club during any Friday **'After 4'** and from sellers listed in the poster that appears in this issue.

We Need You ...

... to start discerning which Council leadership role you feel called to fill. Please contact **Grand Knight Harald** (519-318-4189) to discuss what's involved in any position you may be interested in.

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) to request the weekly ZOOM link.

Living In The Eternal Love of Christ

My Brothers in Christ: This is the first in my multi-part series of articles about the homeless crisis we see all around us in St. Thomas and our region. As a Catholic Man, my faith tells me to ask two simple questions: 1) *What would Christ say?* and 2) *What would Christ do?* Many of the problems in today's world arise because we fail to turn to God's guidance before making decisions. My early morning routine includes searching for any Vatican announcements from **Pope Leo XIV**. In his recent message on the poor, he emphasized that love for the poor is an inseparable part of love for God. He stated that the poor are "part of our family" and not just a societal problem. In his apostolic exhortation "*Dilexi Te*", he stresses that faith requires concrete action to help the poor by fighting poverty's structural causes. Actions that include providing aid such as food and shelter, and protecting vulnerable groups like migrants and refugees. He noted that the poor can teach the wealthy about true hope, as their faith is not based on possessions but on their love of God. Our Order founder, **Father Michael McGivney**, said, "*The poor are not statistics or a problem to be solved*", and our Supreme Chaplin echoed that with, "*They are persons created in God's image and have been endowed with dignity; they have names, faces, a personal history and destiny.*" Fr. McGivney loved and knew the poor by name.



Today, we see despair all around us in our streets, back alleys, and parks. So, let's start by looking at Christ's first message to the world (Luke 4:18), "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.*" This signals that the central part of Christ's mission is a message of hope to those who are struggling. In Mathew (25: 31-46), Jesus states that those who feed the poor, give drink to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison, will have done these things for him (conversely, those who fail to help the needy will be condemned). Homelessness is an extremely difficult topic to talk about. For the person who lives next to a crisis center, it is deeply personal. For the small business owner whose customers are afraid to enter his store, or finds a fire outside his back door, or finds used needles some mornings, it is deeply personal. For the entrepreneur whose very livelihood is at risk because of the shelter located next to their place of business, it is deeply personal. For the families that have lived in their homes for decades and now have a homeless encampment in their nearby park, it is deeply personal. This summer, for example, we learned of two major fires started by homeless persons. These are all true and legitimate concerns that I have an appointment with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to talk about as they are deeply upsetting to those directly affected by homelessness. I plan to ask the Police Chief about the police role in, for example, dealing with the most violent criminal offenders living amongst the 'unhoused' community, and about the parole system. I understand that most violent attacks are against other vulnerable homeless people. I will also ask about the problems with the criminal justice system. I must at all times when interviewing politicians remain impartial and will show their replies without my commentary.

There are, of course, many issues that those 'living rough' face as homeless people. It is widely attested that "*No one wanted to grow up to be homeless*", or that "*No homeless person wanted to become addicted to drugs or to die of an overdose*". And yet, while one in nine drug overdoses occur among the homeless, eight of nine drug overdose deaths are from among 'the homed'. No one wants to sleep outside at night on the coldest night of the year or freeze to death in the dark of winter, or to have empty belly, or to be that nameless person whom people turn from in fear. Nevertheless, very few are prepared and willing to look them in the eye or see them as people with feelings. Let us not forget: each person has a name, even as some are living their life in such desperation. We all have plans well ahead for our future. For the homeless person, the goal is to just live one more day. They truly feel hopeless and desperate. Their community consists of the individuals with whom they associate at their encampment. Their social safety group changes each new day as their friends die or move on. Some are afraid to take shelter as they know they will not follow the rules. No one wants to live homeless. No one wants to have their remains left unclaimed at a morgue to be interned in an unmarked grave. Imagine parents that do not understand what has happened to their children. No one wants to attend yet another funeral for the latest person claimed by our cruel streets. No one wants to stand or kneel to prayer in front of the wall of pain, the memorial of photos located in the local crisis center as a tribute to those who once lived among us but died alone on our streets. The conditions I am describing here are something you would read about in a novel about medieval times or a third world county, certainly not about the streets of city in one of the richest countries in the G7. A city with so much promise for the future, we are St Thomas, Ontario, Canada. How can we let this happen? We elect leaders who are working hard. Sadly, so many of the poor slip through the cracks. How long can we continue to let this happen?

[continued]

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

We cannot let homeless housing be underfunded and so it requires all levels of government to work closely together since none is solely responsible. There clearly needs to be much more collaboration among the three levels of government to end homelessness over the long term. If you see concerns in St. Thomas, then take a drive through downtown London or, worse yet, downtown Chatham. I must also say that there has been an outstanding effort by our mayor, city council and staff. They have shown true leadership. There are also outstanding efforts by so many volunteers who give endless unpaid hours, including lifesaving organizations such as [The Grace Café](#), [The Inn](#), the [St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank](#), many Churches, and all who donate to their support. Also noteworthy are Council's efforts, including monthly soup for the Food Bank and our charitable donations to social welfare organizations.

The Grace Café on Talbot Street is a Christian-minded organization. I am sure that God smiles every time He sees the volunteers arrive in the early morning hours. They deserve our daily prayers. They work for hours before the doors open for their guests. They never know how many guests will come each day. God smiles when he hears their early morning worship. He loves every guest who enters Grace Café's doors, knows every one by name, created each one of them with His hands, and cares deeply about their wellbeing. God knows their desperation. While most of us are still at home having our morning coffee and thinking about starting our day, the volunteers at Grace Café have been working for hours preparing food.

Much is being done well by our local city council and for the long-term needs that will continue in future years as the city grows and develops. While we can all see what has been added to housing and what is still under construction, you can put a roof over someone's head but you must also put food in their bellies. What are the city's plans for these future needs? What can be done to feed the hungry for the long term? Helping homeless people requires a person-by-person level of help and follow-through directed at producing self-dignity, self-sufficiency, employment and positive contribution to the city. I plan to do a separate faith message on issues facing young men today, many of whom live in basements, 'couch surf', are chronically unemployed, or otherwise lost in their dark online world. There is also the mental health crisis facing so many young men, with no direction and seeing no future for themselves. The result is too often drug-addiction, mental illness, and, most sadly, suicide, a parent's worst nightmare. We see it on the news with so many shootings. We saw it with the two young children murdered while on their knees praying at morning Mass, and in the murder of faith leader Charlie Kirk. Many young adults truly need our help. Some are broken-hearted and need more help than just our many prayers. Leaders must speak up and show that we care. They are our sons and daughters, our grandchildren, the future of our country.

For future articles in this series, I will write about the many young people struggling to start their lives and their level of desperation. I believe our faith can be a guide to helping them. It is a wonderful journey to seek scriptural guidance for healing of young adults, to find rich verses that address their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing; and provide comfort, strength, and hope during challenging times. Over the course of this multi-part series, I plan to ask hard question of the various people that deal with all aspects of homelessness: the politicians, the police and fire chiefs, the people providing housing for the formerly 'unhoused', and those addressing mental health illness. In the final issues I will ask and answer myself the same tough questions that I have asked of others and will close the final article in the series with a prayer that God will have placed in my mind (self-reflection and time in prayer is always good).

In closing here, I wish to share two passages: Isaiah (40: 29-31), "[**He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength**](#)"; and Psalms (34:17-18), "[**When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.**](#)" May our life of every day be penetrated by his presence.

Douglas Mactavish, Faith Director 🙏

Pope Leo's January Intention: For Prayer With The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Reflection

Happy this new year? Early days, I know, but all the same that's not an easy question for many folks to answer. Consider, for example, how they may be experiencing uncertain physical, emotional, financial and even spiritual anxiety. Simply tearing off a calendar page likely does nothing to alleviate that. Compounding their worry is the incessant flow of 'news', poured into us by various media like a bitter brew. It rarely goes down well and (with no thanks to Mary Poppins) there's nary a spoonful of sugar at hand.



While it's understandable many of us become overwhelmed by secular and temporal stressors during these post-Christmas days, we really ought to self-impose a 'time-out', to carve out some time to reflect on a couple of simple truths: 1) we just commemorated that God was with us in the human-divine person of Jesus, and 2) He is still with us in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the Counsellor, the Paraclete. As **Carl Spackler** (Bill Murray's character in the movie *Caddy Shack*) would say, "*At least we got that going for us*".

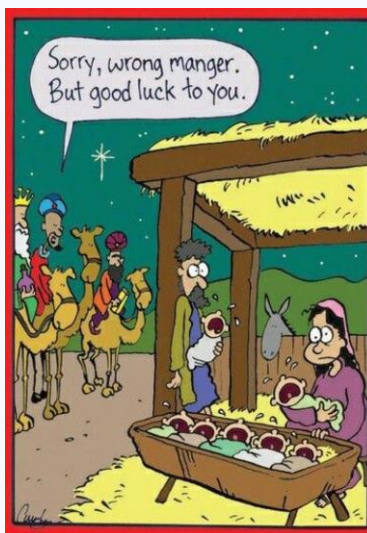
Some of our brothers and sisters have yet to realize 'they have friends they haven't even used yet' to help them navigate life's trials and tribulations. "*What friends, might those be?*", you ask? Well, God, of course, in all His triumvirate forms; Mary, to whom we send our petitions for protection, help or intercession; ditto the saints; and ... wait for it ... our temporal friends and relatives that we know and socialize with. In my experience, confiding in a friend about things that are 'beating you down' can often lead to you soon realizing you need to switch gears to console them as they share that they have gone (or are still going) through something a lot worse than what you had in mind to unload. Such is the beauty of living in communion with others. Even more so when we share in the Eucharistic recollection of what our Lord subjected Himself to on our behalf, asking only in return that we love Him and our neighbour as ourselves. It's that kind of thinking that reminds you that God has, after all, let you start another lap around the sun ... for another chance to demonstrate your fulfilment of His ask. Worry only, then, that you may not be appreciating how much He loves you.

While it was not ever a top-ten Christmas tune (not even close, truth be told), the opening lines of a Nazareth song, "***Love hurts, love scars / Love wounds and mars / Any heart / Not tough or strong enough / To take a lot of pain, take a lot of pain / Love is like a cloud / Holds a lot of rain***", resonates deeply at this time of the year. Think now of the several of our brothers, recent widowers, who have experienced a first Christmas without their spouse. You don't have to be an astrophysicist to imagine how time passes more slowly for them as they seek to re-fill their schedules without a partner to tell (at least remind) them what to do on any given day. Now'd be a good time to reach out to simply say you've been thinking of them.

Which brings me to reflecting on arguably the most important principle of our brotherhood: Fraternity. Like I've told Bros. Henry, John, Patrick and others (and on more than one occasion) how I consider the recent annual Christmas Tree campaign to be one of our greatest fraternal projects. Why? Well, because of how it provides for brothers to share a bit of somewhat private time together over a 2-hour shift to simply talk and get to know each other. Those of you that have been able to volunteer for a shift or more over the late November through mid-December campaign know what I'm talking about. Each of us needs to resolve to keep that spirit of fraternal connection alive throughout this new year. Let's convert the old adage to say instead that "***Happiness loves company***". Be a brother, be a friend ... make a call. I sincerely believe you'll be happier for it.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Romans 8:22-28: We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope, we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.



Catholic Corner

Merry Christmas Season to all my Brothers and Family! My hope for all is to spend time with family and friends while reflecting on the celebration of the birth of Christ, the Son of God.

What a beautiful season of faith! Imagine the love God has for you and I that He sent His Son to be born in the humblest of ways, in a manger. A manger, where animals feed and in a stable with animals. I simply can't get my head around the amount of love God has for us.

Husbands and wives have deep love for each other and while it seems limitless, they then have a child and their love reaches an even deeper level they didn't know they even had capacity for. Even that love pales in comparison to God's. He so loves us that He sent His Son to walk among us, knowing He was to suffer a humiliating death to atone for our sins so we may come closer to His Father.

Despite celebrating this season without my mother and Lisa, my wife of 30 years, for the first time, it is God's love for me that has allowed me to celebrate this season. How do I know God loves me? Well, I see it every day in my family and friends: friends who come up to me and give me a hug and let me know I am in their thoughts and prayers, and everyone that has reached out to me with messages and texts to let me know the same. I know this is God's love for me being lived out through my family and friends and I pray that I can be there for my family and friends and live out God's love in me for them.

Feeling God's love working through you is a wonderful and incredible feeling. I have experienced this through the RCIA¹ program where I have been asked to sponsor two candidates. I am so blessed to journey with the candidates and catechumens and to share in and observe how their own faith grows. I am especially excited as one of the catechumens I am sponsoring has asked me to be Godfather to his baby this January at his Baptism. Sharing my faith at the RCIA has allowed me to grow closer to God in my relationship, something I value greatly.

As we close out 2025 and look forward to what 2026 May bring us, my prayer is to continue to grow closer to God and for all your intentions and prayers to be heard and answered.

God Bless and Happy New Year!

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

¹ The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of learning and spiritual formation for adults interested in becoming Catholic or completing their Sacraments of Initiation.



The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / January 2026

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



Sir Knights:

We celebrated the birth of the Christ Child Jesus, and we await the **Three Kings** (January 6th). We celebrated the **Solemnity of Mary Mother of God** on January 1st and how her "yes" changed the world. These weeks surrounding Christmas are such a joyous time but also a time for much reflection.

I trust everyone had their fill of turkey and all the other goodies that are must haves at this time of year. I want to thank again, all the Sir Knights that donate so much of their time to the church, the community, fundraising, and other services too numerous to mention.

Our **Christmas Dinner** for all the Knights, Ladies, and guests, was an overwhelming success. The Ladies Auxiliary, the Columbus Club, and The Back Alley's Rod Caldwell did a wonderful job. Everything from the décor, the food, the music, and the atmosphere was second to none. Brian May brought a choir with him that really finished off the night in true Christmas spirit. We were just shy of 90 guests. WOW!! I hope we can continue to grow this event. I hope to see many more attend next year.

Our next meeting is Monday January 5th and, as always, there will be a light snack provided. Father John's reflection and adoration will take place Wednesday January 7th at St Anne's; a good way to start the new year. And, I have to say that dreaded word, "**ELECTIONS**", will soon be upon us. Please contemplate in what capacity you can serve your Assembly when the time comes.

"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:2) There are two ways through life: **the way of nature and the way of grace.**

Happy New Year!

Vivat Jesu!
SK Simon Vink FN

A truly great time was had by all at the Annual Knights & Ladies Christmas Dinner at the Columbus Club.

Please stayed tuned for announcements about future get togethers at your club.



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

Faithful Friar Fr. Peter Keller

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HAPPY NEW YEAR From Your COLUMBUS CLUB!!!

I Trust each of you had a very Merry Christmas.

First, and foremost: A BIG Thank You to **Laurie Elford** for her hard work in beautifying our club while also managing booking reservations. The place looks great!

We'll be starting the bathroom renovations this month and looking forward to the completion of this long overdue project to provide accessibility for everyone visiting the club.

Our **Friday After 4** socials are being very well attended. Everyone is clearly enjoying themselves and our weekly meat draws are generating a good return for the Summerfest Food Bank donation fund.

Please plan to attend the Club's **Annual General Meeting** on Saturday January 10th starting at 9:30 a.m. to learn about club activities and plans. As you know, all members in good standing with **Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467** are also members of the club and are encouraged to participate in the AGM to provide input to its stewardship by our volunteer directors.

Hope to see y'all on Fridays through the year and wishing you ALL a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year!

Fraternally,
Brother Dennis Walters, Columbus Club Director

SUMMERFEST 2026: June 19-20



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