



COMMUNION

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

February 2026



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers: As you may know, February is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. As Catholics, we are called to emulate the Holy Family ... even as we turn a blind eye to everything our family members do to vex us. As a man ... *strike that* ... as a husband, father, uncle, and especially should you be blessed to be an Opa / Poppa / [*insert grandchild's silly name for you here*], you know how you've sacrificed your life so that your loved ones may be happy and succeed. To paraphrase John 15:13, *greater love has no [husband / father / uncle / Opa] than this, that [they] lay down his life for his family*. So let me say this to you: **You are the star that shines light into the darkness that anyone you hold dear may occasionally experience**. So, shine brightly brother ... and should you find your light dimming, please reach out to your brothers to refuel you.

February 1st is the **Feast Day of St. Brigid of Ireland**. [*Like there's another one?*] My first elementary school was St. Brigid's in Toronto and I vaguely recall the school principal was a full-habited nun, the recess playground was 'hanky-panky' segregated (boys on one side and girls on the other), and I think the adjacent St. Brigid's church pastor was Bing Crosby. My First Communion saw a full front entrance class photo on the steps, girls in white with veils and boys in suits with satin white arm bands. My fondest memory of First Communion was the gift of a dozen or so silver dollars from an adult friend of my dad ... still have them. Like I suppose any 'cradle Catholic', my recollections of the 'entry level' sacraments were that they were certainly 'mysterious' and more often guided by the parental edict, "*Don't fidget and for God's sake spit out that gum*". So, yes, I'm jealous of the today's RCIA folks ... I think I need a 're-tread' ... I'm going to get around to asking **Bro. Rob Weir** to sponsor me.

Don't forget **Valentine's Day** is on the 14th of this month ... same date every year ... next to your anniversary it is arguably the most important one on your calendar. Your birthday? Waaaaay down the list bro.

In closing, I can appreciate we all feel *the times are a-changin'*. Nevertheless, we can draw strength from our Lord's promise, "*I am with you always, to the close of the age*" (Matthew 28:20). So, keep your faith, hold onto your hope, and continue to love yourself as you love others.

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@gmail.com 226-376-6157
Regis Trudel registrudel@rogers.com 226-688-6060



FS CHAT

DUES ARE DUE

If you are reading this and have not paid your 2026 dues, then you are late and please accept this gentle reminder to remit your dues ASAP. Your dues are not a charity donation and constitute 60% of our annual budgeted income. They cover your membership in a brotherhood of Catholic gentlemen whose first principle is Charity. Membership has both privileges and responsibilities, one of which is to pay our dues on time. It is hoped that Brothers will pay soon so that a third notice will not be required. Dues can be sent to my home (the address is on your notice) or dropped off at the Columbus Club (please use the mail box by the Wellington Street facing 'front' door) or sent by e-transfer to FS1467@ontariokofc.ca. **PLEASE NOTE: 2026 Membership Cards are available to pick up at all Business meetings.** Thank you to all Brothers who paid prior to January 27th and were eligible for the draw for a Free 2027 Membership. The Winner will be selected at our February 23rd Business Meeting.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

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

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.



February Assignments

- Tues. 17th, 3 – 5 p.m.: Jim Coveny & Carl Pearson
- Thurs. 26th, 7 – 9 p.m.: Steve Wachowiak & 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.

Ladies Auxiliary

Thanks especially to **Lady Lorraine Fleming** for helping to organize a great **New Year's Levee** and to the many Knights that attended. We'll definitely plan to reprise the Levee this year!

The Ladies Auxiliary contributed proceeds from our recent Ladies & Knights Christmas dinner to funds from the Columbus Club to make a donation of \$900 to the **Elgin Regiment** towards 'care packages' for serving members overseas.

Lady Sandi Hoffer
Past President, Ladies Auxiliary

MARK THE DATES FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

- 2nd: Bishop J. C. Cody Assembly meeting
- 8th: **SUPERBOWL PARTY (4 p.m. -)**
- 9th: Council Executive meeting
- 11th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m. @ SA**)
- 14th: **Valentine's Day**
- 14th: Men's Faith Series (**HA @ 8 -11:30 a.m.**)
- 16th: Columbus Club Directors meeting
- 18th: Soup Brothers (**9 a.m.**)
- 18th: **Ash Wednesday**
- 21st: **Men's Retreat (9:30 – 11 a.m.)¹**
- 21st: Pot Roast Dinner (4:30 p.m. -)
- 23rd: FED Council Business meeting
- 27th: Knights with the Stars hockey game
- 28th: Men's Faith Series (**HA @ 8 -11:30 a.m.**)

1. An itinerary & additional details will be e-blasted before this event.

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



Ladies Lorraine Fleming & Sandi Hoffer with the beautiful presentation of *hors d'oeuvres* at the Columbus Club's New Year's Levee.

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, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin & Marilyn Evers, Roy Esbaugh's brother Cyril, 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, Douglas Mactavish, 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, Regis Trudel's wife Nancy, 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 **Kim Hack**, daughter of SK Louie Van Hooydonk's partner **Mary Randall**, and **Harry Meulendyks**, father of Bro. Rick Haasen's wife Angie, 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.

St. Thomas & Elgin Resettlement Committee

presents

Juno Award Winners

ENNIS
SISTERS

from Newfoundland & Labrador



Thursday March 26, 2026

St. Anne's Centre, St. Thomas

Doors Open - 6:30 • Show - 7:30 pm

Tickets \$40.00 Each

General Admission | Licensed Event

Tickets available at

Holy Angels & St. Anne's
St. Thomas
519-631-3640

Knox Presbyterian
St. Thomas
519-619-5764

St. Hilda's - St. Luke's
St. Thomas
519-631-0504

Our Lady of Sorrows
Aylmer
519-631-3640

Proceeds to benefit the ERCFP Apostolic & Refugee Committees

4LIFE LONDON
invites you to a

FUNDRAISING GALA



Feat. Keynote Speaker
MELISSA OHDEN

Hear the powerful story of abortion survivor Melissa Ohden from Kansas City, who turned unimaginable beginnings into a mission of hope. Through her journey, she inspires others and affirms the immeasurable value of every child in the womb.

09. APR. 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
DINNER SERVED AT 6:30PM

TICKETS \$75 PER PERSON
\$600 TABLE (INCLUDES 8 PPL)

MARCONI CLUB
120 CLARKE RD.
LONDON, ON



SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS

For further details or ticket inquiries

PLEASE CONTACT LEIRE DOUROS AT 519.659.3334

Proceeds to benefit 4LifeLondon

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.

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.

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).



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)



Grand Knight Harald introduced and welcomed **Brother Liam Hutchin** to Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 at Council's General Membership meeting of January 26th. Bro. Liam recently joined our Order and completed his 3rd Degree Exemplification on-line.

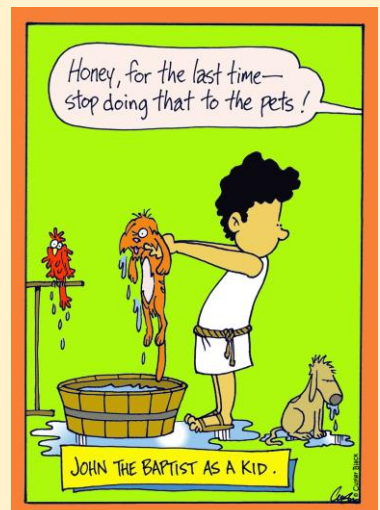
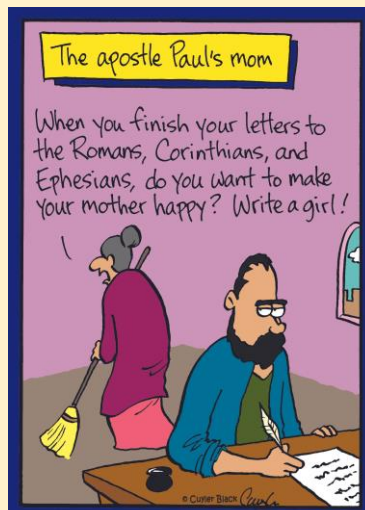
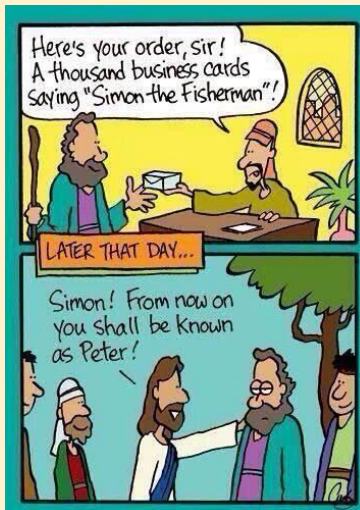


COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The Brothers made **117** 24-oz containers of **Butternut Squash** soup on Wednesday January 21st for the St. Thomas-Elgin Food Bank (The Caring Cupboard). The next soup day is **Wednesday, February 18th**, 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: January's weekly \$50 winners were: January 5th, Ticket #109 **Dan Denniss**; 12th, #138 **Jan Moes**; 19th, #208 **Jeff Carr**; & 26th, # 102 **Walter Georgijiev**. Congratulations to our winners so far. Good luck this month! Weekly draws will continue 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.



Living In The Eternal Love of Christ

Writing about faith is an intensely personal journey. As I reflect on how much of my beliefs to share, I realize there is no way to meet everyone's expectations or perspectives. The thoughts and experiences that follow are drawn from my own life. My faith is the cornerstone of my existence. I do not claim perfection or to have all the answers; instead, I offer a sincere perspective from someone for whom faith remains a steady foundation.

The Importance of Daily Faith

One of my greatest daily joys is participating in communion every morning. This practice brings me happiness and deepens my connection to my faith. I am convinced that faith is most powerful when it is lived out in our daily actions, choices, and interactions with others. Faith is not a passive belief; it is a living force that shapes the way we live, work, and care for those around us.

A Call to Compassion for the Poor

I urge fellow believers to cultivate genuine concern for those who are struggling, especially the poor within our communities. The reality of homelessness is visible on our streets and cannot be ignored. For people of faith, turning away from those in need is not an option. Our compassion must compel us into action.

Reflecting on Christ's Example

While homelessness is a significant issue today, in Christ's time, those suffering from leprosy were the marginalized and outcast. Scripture reminds us of our responsibility to reach out with love and compassion to those who are hurting and excluded. The story of Christ healing the leper, found in Luke 17:11-19 and referenced in Matthew and Mark, is particularly meaningful. In this account, Jesus heals ten men with leprosy, a disease that isolated them from society. He instructs them to go to the priest, and as they walk, all are cleansed. Only one (a Samaritan foreigner) returns to thank Jesus, who tells him, "**Your faith has healed you.**" This narrative highlights the significance of faith, the power of gratitude, and the importance of inclusion.

Partnership and Progress in St Thomas

I would like to share my experience with **Joe Preston**, Mayor of St Thomas, who welcomed me warmly and provided substantial support in preparing this series. Thank you, Joe.

Crime and Community Safety

It is important to note the statistics on crime following the introduction of **Special Constables** in downtown St. Thomas. Since 2020, the **St. Thomas Police Service** has responded to 9,253 calls for service in the downtown area, with 2021 being the busiest year. However, calls for service in the downtown core decreased by 31% from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, the city partnered with **Indwell's Hope for Homes** to expand supportive housing options. In 2022, the St. Thomas Police Service launched its **Community Response Unit**, deploying Special Constables to work directly with marginalized individuals in the downtown core. Consequently, overall calls for service in downtown St. Thomas decreased by 14%, and complaints related to drug use behaviour or activity dropped by 67% since 2020.

Decreasing Deaths Among the Homeless

A key point is that the number of deaths among residents experiencing homelessness has decreased over time in the **Southwestern Public Health Region**, particularly in Elgin St Thomas. The chief Coroner's office defines homelessness as individuals without stable, permanent, appropriate housing or immediate prospects, means, and ability of acquiring it. This includes living in emergency shelters, transitional shelters, winter respite services, vehicles, tents, public spaces (such as bridges or bus shelters), couch surfing, or having no fixed address. Between 2022 and 2024, the number of deaths among those experiencing homelessness in the Public Health region has decreased. This is in contrast to the Province of Ontario as a whole, where there was an increase between 2022 and 2023, followed by a decrease in 2024.

[continued]



Housing Solutions for the Homeless

Turning to housing, in 2021, **Railway City Lofts** opened, providing homes for 15 people experiencing chronic homelessness and the highest acuity or needs in our community. Within six months, their contact with emergency services (police, fire, ambulance, and emergency room) was reduced by more than 80%. In August 2021, our temporary emergency shelter, **The Inn**, moved locations and became a 24/7 housing-focused, low-barrier shelter, now recognized as a leading model for Canadian shelter operations. The shelter continually adapts, and at no point has anyone been turned away due to capacity issues. In 2023, **The Station** opened, offering 45 units of supportive housing for people with mid-level acuity or needs. St. Thomas-Elgin has been recognized twice by **Built for Zero** for achieving reductions in chronic homelessness after opening new programs, demonstrating that homelessness is solvable and that the solution is housing. In 2023, St. Thomas was confirmed as Canada's second community to achieve a **Functional End to Veterans Housing**, positioning the city as a leader in ending homelessness.

New Housing Developments

Additional housing initiatives include tiny homes, which welcomed their first ten of forty households in October 2025. **Eastwood's** new development, **Highview Hideaway**, opens in 2026, committing 48 of its affordable units to households most in need. The third Indwell-built project, **Balaclava**, is underway and will bring 78 units of supportive housing to our community, with priority for those accessing emergency shelter. Collaborating with private developers, **Prespa Homes** on Flora Street will create 24 new affordable housing units for low-income seniors, and five affordable units at **Highland Apartments** will be available through our CIP program.

Health Issues and Homelessness

There are many topics beyond the scope of this section, such as transmitted infections, HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, mental health (including substance use disorders, cognitive function, memory issues, nutrition deficiencies, foot issues, hypertension, diabetes, and injuries). Unfortunately, health issues not only can, but do, lead to homelessness.

Why Address Difficult Topics?

I have been asked why I discuss subjects that may be uncomfortable to think about or talk about. Many people fall through the cracks, perhaps you know someone, or perhaps you fear that one day it could be your son or daughter. Many are one paycheque away from homelessness. The fastest growing segment of our homeless community are single seniors. I believe that we are the ones called to do much. There are many who already work endless hours to give so much of themselves. We need more workers. Nothing helps a person to grow in the faith more than following the teaching of Christ, and his call to help the poor. Faith is most powerful when lived out in our daily lives.

Douglas Mactavish, Faith Director 🙏

Pope Leo's February Intention:
For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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.

Reflection

'Weaponization', of things and especially of words, seems to be in vogue these days as evidenced by geo-political 'news' reports. And yet, whether it occurs often turns on perspective; it depends largely on whether you are on the receiving end and, if so, inclined to play the victim to any kind of solicited or unsolicited advice or counsel. In those cases, the presumption of persecution renders all well-meaning dialogue futile.



Consider, for example, these 'wise guy' words in Proverbs, "**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall**" (16:18), and "**He who oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to want**" (22:16). Not only timely but timeless advice ... from my perspective.

Of the ancient prophets, some would say Jeremiah stands out as one not afraid to 'rock the boat' by 'speaking truth to power'. His book, written during his ministry from 627-586 B.C. (according to margin notes in my study bible), is truly worth reflecting upon today as we try to process what 'in God's name' is going on in the world. I found the verse, "**But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence**" (22:17) to be particularly relevant when seen through the lens of current events.

Such troubled times we live in, eh? You may recall my including Jesus' prophesy (Luke 21:9-11) in my December Reflection, "**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.**" As if His prophesy wasn't bad enough, I'm now reflecting on John's in Chapter 6 of Revelation ('Opening the Seven Seals'), and specifically the release of the Second Living Creature (6:3-4), "**When [the Lamb] opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that men should slay one another; and he was given a great sword.**"

Seriously?! This is what we're to look forward to at the end of days? If it be so (and forgive me to not argue against Scripture), we can draw comfort from the virtues of faith, hope and charity to guide us through tumultuous times. Whatever anxiety we experience now will be resolved when Jesus returns, as He told us (Luke 21:25-28), "**And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**"

In the face of imminent threats to world order, it would seem, like the 'proverbial' Elvis, Pollyanna (the fictional girl with an unfailing optimistic outlook) has left the building. And yet, it may still unfold, as we pray it does, that we shall see God's "**will be done on earth as it is in Heaven**". As Catholics, we are called to stay true to our faith even as earth descends into Hell via hand-basket because of our hope in Jesus's charitable (loving) promise, "**I am with you always, to the close of the age**" (Matthew 28:20). Hold your head high brother ... those fearing need to see it!

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Gospel of Life Novena

The Novena will begin **Monday March 16th** and run daily through **Tuesday the 24th**, in advance of the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** & the **K of C Day of the Unborn Child** on Wednesday, March 25th.

Prayer cards & intentions will be available prior to masses. For those participating at home, all information (including intentions) will be obtainable through the Family of Parishes on-line bulletins for the period (see: <https://elqinrcparishes.ca/>). We're looking for assistance from brother Knights to lead the Novena on some weekday mass dates (see schedule) and ask that they arrive 20 minutes early.

Please contact Bro. Patrick Houston if you can help (519) 633-0724.

Schedule (March 2026)

- 16th: 8 a.m. mass @ Holy Angels
- 17th: 8 a.m. mass @ St. Anne's
- 18th: noon mass @ Holy Angels
- 19th: after 9:15 a.m. mass @ St. Anne's
- 20th: noon mass @ Holy Angels
- 21st: 4:30 p.m. mass @ St. Anne's
- 22nd: 9 a.m. mass @ Holy Angels
- 23rd: 8 a.m. mass @ Holy Angels
- 24th: 8 a.m. mass @ St. Anne's



Council members presented their donation of **\$2,500** to the **Barrie Family Hospice of Elgin** on Wednesday January 21st. With thanks to **Bros. Dennis Collins**, a hospice volunteer, and **Jim Dewan**, Bingo committee chair, brothers were provided a tour of the beautiful facility by **Larissa Caruana**, Community Engagement Coordinator. Pictured are (L-R): **Bro. Orio Ortins**, **GK Harald Schraeder**, **Bro. Bill Walker**, **Larissa**, **Jim Coveny**, **FN Simon Vink** & **Bro. Jim** (Bro. Dennis took the photo).

Any brother interested in volunteering at the Hospice is encouraged to contact Bro. Dennis Collins.

Catholic Corner

Welcome to 2026 and a New Year! Ok, honestly, how many new year resolutions are you still actively trying to keep? I know better than to make resolutions anymore because I struggle each year to keep them, some even for a day or two. What I have learned is to pray. Pray to God for the gifts of the holy spirit to bring me closer to God. I guess that is my resolution and so far, so good. I could certainly be better with my prayer life; always room for improvement. I am working to discern what is next for me. What is God now calling me to do with my life? How can I serve him so I can continue to grow closer and complete his will for me while on earth? After all, the goal is to reach heaven and life eternal with God.

Do you struggle with prayer? Do you ever wonder why God does not answer certain prayers? The answer is He always answers our prayers. However, we may not get the answer we like or expected, or we are too stubborn to listen and hear His answer. I know I struggle with this from time to time. Praying for the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, piety, counsel, fortitude and fear of the Lord) will help us to be open and hear God's answers. Having the courage to say **"Yes, Lord"**, takes humility and courage as we need to put aside our pride and our plans, our perception that we oversee our lives.

Imagine **Mary**, a young virgin sitting, praying and having the courage and wisdom it took her to say "Yes" to the angel Gabriel's announcement that she's been chosen by God to bear the Son of Man? Could I do the same? Would I say **"Yes"** to the Lord if an Angel was sent to tell me to do something for God! While I would certainly hope so, I also appreciate it would take so much faith and courage. Mary, as we know, had unwavering faith and courage, right up to the death of her Son, our Lord.

I've reflected on the Gospel reading at a recent mass, wherein **Simon** (called Peter) and his brother **Andrew**, as well as the sons of Zebedee, brothers **James** and **John**, dropped everything, including their livelihoods and family obligations, to follow Jesus. They didn't question or say, **"Lord give me a few months to get my affairs in order"**. No, they had faith and courage and became fishers of people.

It is through my prayers, asking the Holy Spirit for those gifts, that I am growing closer to God and starting to hear His call for me. I know I am not perfect, far from it, and in fact a sinful man who asks continuously for forgiveness. Despite that, even I am being called to follow Jesus and become a fisher of people. **We all are!** So, I ask for your prayers that we all have the courage, wisdom, and understanding to say **"Yes, my Lord, here I am, your humble servant"**. May God Bless you through these cold, dark months. May we remain prayerful even when we don't get the answer that we, perhaps selfishly, hoped for! Believe me: **You can count on the fact He knows what you actually need!**

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



The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / February 2026

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



Sir Knights:

Any one up for pancakes? In the past, I've noted the sap running as early as early February and I can't wait to have my first feed of pancakes, sausage, and maple syrup. The days are getting longer, and with the light reflecting off the snow, it seems to extend daylight just a hair longer. Even though there could be lots of winter left, it leaves me with the illusion that we are almost at the end. Either way, my disposition is greatly improved.

The Columbus Club held their first Levee on January 1st after an 8-year hiatus and it was a great success. A good number of Sir Knights were in their uniform and we were well represented.

A reminder to able-bodied Sir Knights: the church and the community are always looking for us to fill the gaps and help. We can set an example that will encourage others to step forward. Keep these upcoming events in mind:

1. February – March: Catholic Men's Faith Series (see poster in this issue for dates and times)
2. April 9th: 4LifeLondon Annual fund-raising Gala featuring Melissa Ohden (see poster in this issue)
3. May 14th: March for Life bus trip (details to be determined)

Future issues of **Communion** will provide full details of these and other upcoming events. Pending completion of building renovations, our next meeting will take place Monday, February 2nd, 7 p.m. at the Columbus Club. It is uplifting to see attendance improving, and it's a great time to not only socialize, but to catch up on all that your fellow brothers are involved in. Pizza will be served and we always appreciate a goodwill donation.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns'" (Isaiah 52:7). May we all pray for the world to see peace as the only way forward, and to walk more closely in Jesus' footsteps.

Fraternally yours, SK Simon Vink FN



Lady Ruth & FN Simon Vink dancing to the dulcet piano music provided by SK Roy Esbaugh.



As these SK's know: Every woman loves a sharp-dressed man!

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
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Happy and Blessed New Year from the executive and volunteers of the Columbus Club.

We extend a very special thanks to **Laurie Elford**, Club Directors and several additional volunteers for a great **Family New Year's Eve Party**, as well as the **Levee** on the following day. Thank you also to all the Knights who supported the Levee as well as other functions at the Club through the year. It is my hope that this continues and grows this year.

The washroom and entrance improvements look fantastic and I encourage you to drop by the club soon to see for yourself. This project has taken years to plan and fundraise for, but will be complete the beginning of this month. A 'tip of the hat' to **Brothers Joe Fleming, Roy Esbaugh, Dave Elford & Dennis Walters** for their recent efforts to 'pitch in' to bring the project to completion and under budget. Several other brothers have been involved in the conceptualizing and undertaking of the project over the years, and I invite you to drop by soon to see for yourself the fruits of their labours.

I and Club Directors plan to sit down with **Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council Executive** in the near future to engage in productive and frank discussion on several club-focused items, including, but not limited to, our bylaws, operational issues, and club finances. We intend the meeting to provide us all the opportunity to 'clear the air' while proving to be both beneficial and productive for all involved.

Thanks for your support and hard work, we pray that may continue for 2026.

Fraternally,
Brother David Warden, President



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

SK Roy (Moves Like Mick Jagger) Esbaugh invites all his fellow brothers & friends to join him at the Columbus Club for this year's Super Bowl on **Sunday February 8th**. Doors will open at 4 p.m. to provide some fraternal time before game kick off 6:30 p.m. We will have cards to play games, darts if you bring your own to play with, and we'll also have our annual dice game if you wish to join in.

Feel free to bring a snack to munch on. Bar service will be offered and we'll be ordering pizza for half time.

SUMMERFEST 2026: June 19-20

GET READY TO ROCK!!!



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