

The Good Knight

*"In Service to One,
In Service to All"*



Issue 9

November 2023

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Greetings! "November" actually means 'ninth month' because, in the old Roman calendar, the new year began in March – when spring arrived. Legend tells us that November was once known as 'Gossamer', meaning 'goose summer' and was similar to what we refer to as a late or 'second' summer.

November can be a dreary month. We abandon Daylight Saving Time, the trees are bare, and the land is brown until the snow arrives. November is a time of recalling the heavenly harvest at the end of time, of celebrating the saints and remembering the dead. The month begins with two feast days in remembrance of those who have died: All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). We pray that, at the end of our time, we will share the glory of the saints. Even the daily readings this month fit with this theme of the 'end times'.

It is also a time to consider the mystery of death, even to make preparations for it by writing or revisiting wills. This time spent reflecting on death need not be a sad or depressing time. Our faith reminds us that death is merely a transition from this earthly life into eternal life with a loving God in heaven.

Thank you for reading *The Good Knight*.

Louis Kloster, Editor and Current Grand Knight

**TRUST THE PAST TO GOD'S MERCY,
THE PRESENT TO GOD'S LOVE,
AND THE FUTURE TO GOD'S PROVIDENCE.**

St. Augustine

Important Dates

November 2023



- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 8 Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting by Zoom
- 9 Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights @ 7 p.m.
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 15 Knights of Columbus General Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast
- 22 Feast of St. Cecilia
- 26 Feast of Christ the King
- 30 Feast of St. Andrew, apostle

Have You Heard This One?

As a young minister, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a grave-side service for a homeless man, with no family or friends, who had died while traveling through the area. The funeral was to be held at a remote country cemetery; this man would be the first to be laid to rest there.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost; and being a typical man I did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the crew, eating lunch, but the hearse was nowhere in sight. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open grave, where I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them long but this was the proper thing to do.

The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I poured out my heart and soul. As I preached, the workers began to say "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and "Glory," I preached, and I preached, like I'd never preached before: from Genesis all the way to Revelation. I closed the lengthy service with a prayer and walked to my car. I felt I had done my duty for the homeless man and that the crew would leave with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication, in spite of my tardiness.

As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, "I ain't never seen anything like this before... and I've been installing septic tanks for over 20 years."

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Pro-Life Corner

This column explores pro-life issues and promotes the sanctity of life. It is good, if not critical, to look at these issues, many of which are often misunderstood, even by the faithful from the Church's perspective.

Pro-abortion claim: Contraception decreases abortion.

Pro-life response: Historically, as contraception use in a population increases, so has the abortion rate. This is because contraception fails. When that happens, users turn to abortion as the back-up solution. Abortion activists admit that the vast majority of abortions are a result of failed contraception. In fact, the abortion industry capitalizes on contraception's failure mechanism as an opportunity to make money by peddling abortion. Using contraception closes a couple's heart to the gift of one another to the gift of new life. It has no place in a culture of life.



YOU CANNOT ALWAYS DEPEND ON PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED THE WAY YOU WANT THEM ANSWERED, BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON GOD.

Bishop Fulton Sheen

The Good of the Order

Every month the Knights pray for the sick in the parish as well as relatives and friends who are in need of God's help. We call this the Good of the Order. We invite you to join us in praying for the following individuals:

- Wilbur Collin Upcoming heart surgery
- D.D. Florent Duguay Prostate cancer treatments
- Bonnie Fleming Stroke recovery
- Joe Lauer Stroke recovery
- Albertine Porter Cancer
- Jean Marc Vermette Deceased
- Robert Weisenberger Heart attack recovery
- Dcn. Dan Ritchie's Sister (Paula) Cancer

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

On the third Sunday of every month, the Knights of Columbus offers a pancake breakfast after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses. Our typical menu includes sausages, eggs, juice, coffee and, of course, pancakes. While these breakfasts raise funds that allow us to support various charities, they also bring our faith community together for food and fellowship. In this photo, Bros. Philip Hawkins (left) and Chris Oster prepare to serve sausages and eggs.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Birthdays in November

We send our greetings to the following Knights who are celebrating birthdays this month:

- November 4 Randy Pruneau
- November 4 Tim Morris
- November 13 Russell Bilodeau
- November 15 Roland Leblanc
- November 20 Dan Chalifoux
- November 25 Ajit Fernandes



Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights

November is a month of remembrance. As a council, we organize a memorial mass to pray for our deceased Knights and their families. This year, this mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 9 at St. Vital Church. All parishioners are invited, with a special invitation being extended to the families of these beloved Knights. It has become a tradition to invite a family member of each of the deceased to come forward and light a vigil candle. We also display the plaques that have been made for each of the nineteen men, such as this one for Réal Bérubé.



Church Chuckle: Life After Death

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"Yes, of course, Sir," the new employee replied.

"Well, then, that makes everything just fine." The boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"

Knight of the Month

Each month, our council recognizes an individual Knight who, in remarkable ways, has contributed to the council and the parish. In October we were delighted to recognize an 'all star' Knight: Bro. Sid Eriavaz. Sid is our new treasurer and a member of the parish maintenance committee. He is a Master of Ceremonies and schedules all those involved in liturgical ministry for the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturdays. Eager to volunteer, Sid is one of our gift card salesmen. He 'pitches in' our annual ditch clean-up and regularly helps with pancake breakfasts. He is on the council's exemplification (initiation) team and serves as the Rural Routes Fair parking attendant coordinator every August. Equally important, Sid has a great sense of humor and is a good friend to many. Thank you, Sid.



The Good Knight

Saint of the Month: St. Cecilia

St. Cecilia, depicted in this painting by the 17th century Italian artist, Carlo Dolci, lived in Rome about a hundred years after Christ. Cecilia promised her virginity to God, but her parents forced her to marry a man named Valerian. She told her new husband that she was accompanied by an angel, but in order to see it, he must be purified. He agreed and was baptized. Returning from the ceremony, he found Cecilia in prayer accompanied by a praying angel. The angel placed a crown on each of their heads and offered Valerian a favor; Valerian asked that his brother be baptized.



Revealing her deep faith in God, Cecilia openly spoke of God's love for all and of her faith in Jesus Christ. Through her preaching, four hundred people came to believe in Jesus.

Cecilia lived – and died – during a time of great persecution in the Church. Christians would be arrested and forced to denounce their faith and worship the Roman gods instead. When arrested, she refused to sacrifice to the pagan gods and, as a result, the Romans condemned her to be smothered by steam. But God protected her, and she did not die. The Romans then ordered a soldier to kill her with a sword. The soldier struck her three times, but was unable to cut off her head. She was badly wounded and remained alive for three days. On the fourth day, after receiving Holy Communion, she died.



When her body was exhumed in 1599, this martyr's body was found to be incorrupt. Today her remains can be found under the altar in a Roman church. Cecilia is honored as the patron saint of musicians because, at her own wedding feast, she ignored the pagan celebrations and sang to God in her heart. She reminds us of the importance of music in our liturgies and is often depicted carrying organ pipes, as in this icon. Her feast day is on November 22.

Family of the Month

Each month, our council also recognizes a family in the parish that serves the faith community in significant or special ways. In October we honored Bro. Jean Boucher and his wife, Diane. Jean is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and until this year served as our council's inside guard. With a friendly disposition, Jean is quick to volunteer wherever he can. Diane is one of the Masters of Ceremonies at the 9 a.m. Sunday mass. For years, Diane has been helping expectant parents prepare for their child's baptism. She will also be busy helping to make tourtières for the Snowflake Bazaar this month.



Liturgical Matters

Why do we present gifts to the priest at Mass?

We present bread and wine because they are needed for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. On Sundays we also bring forth any money that people have donated for the needs of the poor and to pay for the running of the church: electricity, janitorial and secretarial staff, maintenance and upkeep, as well as the many programs and activities that take place in the parish.

In the early days of Christianity, the people may have brought food, clothing, candles, and even gifts like chickens and eggs and pigs for the priest to use. They would also bring other gifts of money or food to be distributed later to those in need.

When we bring the gifts to the altar, we also offer ourselves and our lives to God. We bring up our accomplishments; we bring up the struggles we experience at home and at work. Through these gifts we offer ourselves and all that we have to God. The priest will offer our gifts to Christ. God responds to our gifts by giving us His Son in Communion.

All we have comes from God and now at this time of the Mass we give these gifts back to God, and He uses them in wonderful ways. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. And even we are transformed. Through our participation in the Mass, we are sanctified. We become more faithful, more holy, and more loving of God and of neighbour.

Dissecting the Nicene Creed

As Catholics, what really do we believe? In each issue of The Good Knight this year, we will explore one of the tenets of our faith, as expressed in the Nicene Creed. Here's the next one:

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

- The word, *Lord*, refers to the sovereignty or kingship of God.
- The word, *Christ*, comes from the Greek word *chrīstós*, which means 'Anointed One.'
- In Hebrew, *Christ* means 'God saves.'
- The word 'consubstantial' derives from a Latin word that means 'having the same substance'. The word is an unusual one, but it describes the unusual and mysterious relationship between the Father and the Son.
- The main point is that Jesus is one and the same God as the Father. Their glory is equal. One person is not more important than the other.
- Jesus dwelled with the Father before time began.
- Jesus is God made man; He is God made visible to us.
- Jesus tells the disciples, "If you know me, you will know my Father also. ... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. ... Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14: 7 – 10).
- This is the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, which is central to our Catholic faith.
- God created out of nothing; from nothing he created an incredible diversity of living creatures, all which were destined for the good of humankind.

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Word of the Month:

relics

The word *relic* is derived from a Latin word meaning 'remains' or 'remnants'. Relics are left behind by saints and include material items such as bones, remnants of clothing, or an item touched by the saint. Relics are reminders, and we ourselves collect them. For example, parents often save a lock of their baby's hair, the first tooth a child has lost, samples of schoolwork, and homemade cards that their children have given them.

In the days of the early Church, the Eucharist was celebrated in catacombs (underground burial grounds), on the tombs of the first martyrs. It became tradition that every altar would have a relic embedded in it. Our forefathers at the Council of Trent in the mid 1500's affirmed the significance of relics, declaring that they were to be revered and venerated by the faithful. Relics connect us with our ancestors in the faith. They remind us that the saints were human, just as we are.

There are different classes of sacred relics. A *first class* relic is part of the saint's body, such as the skull and bones of St. Theodore shown in this photo. A possession or piece of clothing worn by the saint would constitute a *second-class* relic. A *third-class* relic is an object that has made contact with part of the saint's body. The container in which relics are stored and protected is known as a *reliquary*.

Relics are still important in the Catholic Church today. They remind us of the saints who have gone before us and God's promise of salvation. We are affirmed in our belief in the resurrection of the body, the communion of saints, and their intercessory power.

The Church, however, cautions us not to view relics as having magical power. In Matthew 9:22-23, a woman who has suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years is healed after touching Jesus' cloak. Indeed, she was healed, but Jesus says, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." Relics are not superstitious objects but concrete symbols of our faith and reminders of the heroic figures who have lived holy lives for us to model.



St. Andrew's Cross

It is believed that St. Andrew, brother to Peter and one of the twelve apostles, was martyred by crucifixion. Tradition tells us that, at his request, Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross or 'saltire', as he did not feel worthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus.

St. Andrew's cross appears on the flag of Scotland. His feast day is on November 30.



LET US REMEMBER ONE ANOTHER IN CONCORD AND UNANIMITY. LET US, ON BOTH SIDES OF DEATH, ALWAYS PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER.

St. Cyprian

You Asked Us...

What is the role of the Warden on the council executive?

The current Warden of Our Lady of the Hill Council #13064 is Joe Mahe. As the Warden, Bro. Joe:

- Supervises and maintains all council property
- Arranges the council chambers for meetings and degree exemplifications
- Oversees inside and outside guards
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct



The jewel of the warden is an axe bound with a fasces, surrounded by a laurel wreath, suspended from a ribbon of red and black. The fasces was a traditional symbol carried by the protectors or guards of the Roman magistrates as a symbol of authority and protection. The ribbon of red and black represents strength and fidelity to duty.

It's Tradition!

Why do we visit grave sites?

For centuries it has been customary for people to visit and care for the graves of deceased loved ones. Gravestones are often decorated with flowers and other mementos and reminders of the deceased.

We visit gravesites so as to:

- remember those who have died,
- 'pay our respects',
- feel close to them, and
- pray for them.

The Bible tells us, "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Maccabees 12:46). One of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead ... but not to forget them.



During the month of November, in particular, the Catholic Church urges us to pray for those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith.

Traditionally, the Filipinos observe All Saints Day (November 1) by visiting the family dead, cleaning and repairing gravesites, and offering prayers, flowers, candles, and even food. Other popular times to visit cemeteries include the Feast of All Souls Day (November 2), Mothers Day, and Fathers Day.

The tradition of visiting family and friends who have been interred in cemeteries has waned somewhat due to our increasingly mobile society. Many people express a desire to visit the gravesites and to honor the memory of loved ones, but live too far away to do so on a regular basis. To compensate for this, we display photos and mementos of those who have died, and we recount, with family and friends, stories of times spent with the deceased.