

The Good Knight

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



Issue 12

February 2024

In this issue:

- Saint of the Month: St. Blaise
- The Role of the K of C Chaplain
- Knight of the Month / Family of the Month
- The Nicene Creed – His Resurrection/Ascension
- Liturgical Matters: Washing of Hands
- Word of the Month: Consecrate
- Exemplification of Four New Knights
- Charter Night & Award Recipients

Greetings! Dating back to the 17th century, February has traditionally been dedicated to the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In them, we have the perfect model of the family; we are inspired by their virtue. It is fitting that, in February, we also celebrate Family Day.

The month begins with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. It is celebrated on February 2, forty days after Christmas. On that day we remember Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, to consecrate their first-born son to the Lord, as was the custom. There they met the elderly Simeon, who simply wanted to live long enough to meet the Savior. The widowed prophet, Anna, was also present. Upon seeing Jesus, she praised God and spoke about Jesus to others (Luke 2: 22-40). For this reason, Anna is said to be the first evangelist.

This year, Lent begins on February 14. It is a time to practice three disciplines: prayer, fasting, almsgiving. Notably, February takes its name from the Latin word for 'purification'. Let us embrace this time of preparation, repentance, and purification.

Thank you for reading *The Good Knight*.

Louis Kloster, Editor and Current Grand Knight

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Congratulations to the following youth who wrote essays on the topic of "How Can the Church Evangelize in the Digital Age?" Their well-written essays can be found on the parish website.

- First Prize (\$100.00) Clare Ann-Marie Robinson
- Second Prize (\$50.00) Elizabeth Pueschel

Important Dates

February 2024



- 2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 3 Feast of St. Blaise
- 4 COR gathering
- 12 Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting by Zoom
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 18 K of C Spaghetti Dinner (See details on page 3)
- 19 Family Day
- 21 Knights of Columbus General Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast

You Were Wondering ...

How does the Church determine when Lent begins?

The date is dependent upon when Easter falls each year. Easter, the holiest of feast days, is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. The first Sunday of Lent begins six weeks prior. This year Easter falls on March 31, 2024.

Family of the Month

Each month, our council recognizes a family in the parish that serves the faith community in significant or special ways. In January we honored Tom and Louise Scott. Louise is a regular proclaimer at the 9 a.m. mass. Both Tom and Louise were very involved in the sale of tourtières in November.

Thank you, Tom and Louise, for your commitment to parish life at St. Vital. God bless.



The Good Knight

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:

Women don't regret abortion.



Pro-life response:

Numerous post-abortive women make clear the devastation that abortion causes to them, harming them on many levels, including physically, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. On a very deep level they mourn the lost relationship with their child. Medical research organizations, such as the deVeber Institute, collect and publish information on the negative impact abortion has on women. There are many ministries, such as Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More Awareness, that seek to bring healing to post-abortive women and men who regret what they've done to their preborn child and who want help. Dismissing abortion regret is to ignore the lived experience of countless hurting women whose hearts are aching for their missing children.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Exemplification of New Knights

On Saturday, January 21, we welcomed four young men to Our Lady of the Hill Council #13064. Families and friends attended this one-hour ceremony, where the candidates were introduced to three of the four principles by which the Knights strive to live: charity, unity, and fraternity. Having been exemplified, they are considered third-degree Knights and may attend our meetings and even serve as members of the executive, if elected. In the photo below, our new members are in the front row (from left to right): Lorne Malaka, Caelam Stack, Michael Bilodeau, and Leo Andrew Danta. Behind them, wearing the yellow and white baldrics are the members of the exemplification team: Dennis Madu, District Deputy Florent Duguay, Louis Kloster, Gabriel deRuiter, Paul Weisenberger, Vincent deRuiter, Joe Mahe, John deRuiter, Fr. Les Drewicki, and Sid Eriavaz.



Pie Sale

The pie sale that took place on the weekend of January 13/14 was a great success, with \$1000.00 raised. The proceeds were divided between the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and Our Lady of the Hill Council #13064, all supporting our charitable works within the parish and the broader community. Thanks to everyone for their support.



Knights of Columbus Charter Night

Our Lady of the Hill Council #13064 was officially formed on January 8, 2002. This year, on Saturday evening, January 27, we celebrated the 22nd anniversary of our council with a gathering of Knights and their families in the parish hall. We enjoyed a potluck supper before a short, formal program, during which we recognized our council executive and honorary lifetime members. Bro. Ted Kotylak was recognized with the Ted Kotylak Award, for the countless hours he gives towards maintenance of church property. Bro. Paul Weisenberger was awarded the Knight of the Year award. The McLarney family was presented with the Family of the Year award, in recognition of their extensive involvement in parish activities and ministries, and Gerard's building of our K of C Family program. The evening



concluded with a very enjoyable one-hour concert by singer-songwriter, John Hewitt. A great time was had by all.

COR Initiative

The first COR gathering was held on Sunday, January 14. Fourteen men attended the event. The group gathered to pray, engage in a scripture program called *Men of the Word*, and enjoy fellowship with each other. COR gatherings will take place on the first Sunday of each month, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. All men in the parish are invited to attend.

The next COR gathering is scheduled for Sunday, February 4 at the home of Louis Kloster, four miles due east of St. Vital Church (100, 50511 Range Road 234), beginning at 7:00 p.m

The Good Knight

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Spaghetti Dinner

For the second year, the Knights are hosting a spaghetti dinner, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 18 at 5 p.m. It will be held at the Beaumont Community Centre. Tickets are \$10.00 a person, and \$40.00 per family, all dwelling in the same house. Tickets are available at the Knights of Columbus gift card table at the back of the church. Following the supper, we are once again holding 'A Night at the Races', which was especially popular amongst the children last year. The hall at the Community Centre can hold up to 150 people, and we would love to fill the space. Not only is this a fundraising event, but it is an opportunity to gather as a parish community on the Family Day long weekend. Please come and join us.

Birthdays in February

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

- February 2 Roger Tessier
- February 2 Maurice Potvin
- February 6 Han Wei (Henry) Yang
- February 6 Bill de Groot
- February 11 Bryan Pueschel
- February 19 Lorne Malaka
- February 26 Jeremy Bujold
- February 27 Kurt Helgoth
- February 27 Louis Kloster



Anniversaries in February

- February 18 Bryan & Diane Pueschel
- February 22 Josemon & Nethu Varghese

Word of the Month:

consecrate

To *consecrate* something is "to declare or set it aside as sacred." The word is a derivative of the Latin verb, *consecrare*, which means to make holy or to devote or dedicate.

In the Bible it refers to "the separation of oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one's relationship with a perfect God." Consecration also carries the connotation of holiness, sanctification, or purity.

During the mass, the part of the Eucharistic prayer when the bread and the wine are sanctified – transformed – into the Body and Blood of Christ is also referred to as the 'consecration'.

As true believers in Christ, we are called to consecrate ourselves to God, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him and devoting our lives to the pursuit of holiness. Each day, we are to live out our lives as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9). We might consider consecrating or dedicating our homes and schools to the Immaculate Heart of Mary or the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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:

And rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

- Christ died for us and rose according to Scripture. His resurrection was foretold by the prophets and was recorded in the books of the Old Testament.
- The belief that Jesus truly is risen and present among us becomes the central motivating force of our faith.
- Through his death and resurrection, Jesus shows that death always leads to new life.
- The risen Jesus now lives with his Father and watches over and guides his Church. We are reminded of this at mass, whenever the priest prays, "You plead for us at the right hand of the Father."
- The ascension into heaven is the human Jesus entering God's heavenly kingdom. Jesus precedes us into the Father's kingdom, but we live in hope of one day being with him forever. We celebrate Ascension Sunday towards the end of the fifty days of Easter, the week before Pentecost Sunday. Scripture tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after his resurrection.
- We believe that Jesus will return at the end of time to judge us.
- We will be judged on how we carry out his great commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with your whole mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22: 37 – 39).
- When we say "His kingdom will have no end," we refer to eternal life, to salvation, where good WILL prevail over evil and where the kingdom of God WILL reign forever.



Knight of the Month

In January we honored Bro. Wilbur Collin as our Knight of the Month. Having been a Knight for fifty years, Wilbur is an honorary lifetime member. He attends meetings regularly and contributes to our discussions. Whether it be to take up the collection at the 5 p.m. Saturday mass, distribute poppy boxes to Beaumont businesses for Remembrance Day, or to sell grocery gift cards at the church, Wilbur is happy to volunteer. Thanks, Wilbur, for all you do.

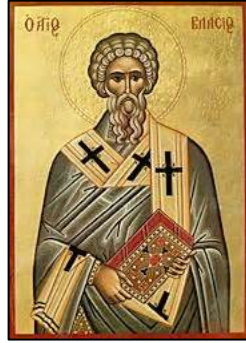


The Good Knight

Saint of the Month St. Blaise

St. Blaise lived in Armenia in the 4th century. He was a doctor, who cared a lot for his patients. As a young man, he often thought about the sufferings of others.

Although he enjoyed being a doctor, he realized that, in order to be 'well', people needed spiritual joy in their lives. He became a priest to teach others about God's love. He later became a bishop. Blaise worked to make his people happy and holy, preaching to and praying for them.



When the governor of that time began to persecute Christians, Blaise was captured and sent to prison. On the way to prison, a crowd gathered to see their beloved bishop one more time. A woman brought her young son to Blaise. The child was choking to death on a fishbone. Blaise whispered a prayer and blessed the boy. The child's life was miraculously saved. St.

Blaise was beheaded in 316 A.D. His feast day is February 3.



Today, St. Blaise is called upon by all who have throat diseases. We still have the "blessing of the throats" on his feast day. The priest uses two crossed candles,

as in the photo, and prays that we may be protected from sicknesses of the throat.

Have You Heard This One?

A surgeon, an engineer and a politician were arguing over which was the oldest profession. The surgeon said: "The Bible says Eve was made by carving a rib out of Adam. I guess that makes mine the oldest profession."

"Not at all", said the engineer. "In six days the earth was created out of chaos, and that was an engineer's job."

At that, the politician then spoke up, "Not so fast, my friends. You're forgetting who created all the chaos."

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. Please join us in praying for:

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Roger Anctil | Major stroke |
| • Omer Brassard | Gravely ill in ICU |
| • Wilbur Collin | Heart surgery recovery |
| • D.D. Florent Duguay | Prostate cancer treatments |
| • Joe Lauer | Stroke recovery |
| • Linda Ritchie | Illness / Family |
| • Larry Rowan | Prostate Surgery Recovery |
| • Paula Vogstad | Illness / Family |
| • Bob Weisenberger | Stroke/heart attack recovery |

Best Lent Ever

Matthew Kelly is a lay evangelist and the founder of Dynamic Catholic, an organization and community of people who are passionate about the Catholic faith and about helping others discover its beauty and truth. Dynamic Catholic's mission is "to re-energize the Catholic Church by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism." Every year, during Advent and Lent, they produce free, daily video reflections, four to five minutes in length. This year it will focus on the Eucharist. If you are interested in subscribing to *Best Lent Ever*, simply go to: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>

You Asked Us...

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

Every Knights of Columbus council has a chaplain, typically the pastor of the parish. We are very pleased to have Fr. Les in this role. As our chaplain, Fr. Les:

- Prays for us, and acts as a spiritual advisor to the brother Knights and families of a council;
- Has the opportunity to provide a message to members at the beginning of each council meeting or whenever it best suits his schedule; and
- Attends meetings of the council whenever his schedule allows.

The jewel of the council chaplain is a silver Isabella Cross, overlaid with a descending dove, suspended from a ribbon of black. This style of Cross is associated with Queen Isabel of Spain, promoter of the voyage of Christopher Columbus. A Cross is a symbol of hope through atonement, reminding Christians of God's love in sacrificing his own son for humanity. The dove, emblem of the Holy Spirit, represents the gift of the Word of God. The ribbon of black represents strength and authority.



Liturgical Matters

Why does the priest bow and wash his hands in preparation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist?

At this time in the Mass, the priest is preparing for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, during which – through the power of the Holy Spirit working through the priest – the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. At the end of the Preparation of the Gifts, the Master of Ceremonies (MC) or altar server brings water and a bowl for the priest to wash His hands. Remember that, many years ago, it was necessary and practical for the priest to wash any dirt off his hands because the people brought gifts of eggs and chickens, and his hands may have been dirty. Today it is a symbolic gesture. During the washing of the hands, the priest prays quietly that God will wash away his sins, before continuing with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.. He prays for inner purity using the words from Psalm 51: 2 ... 'Lord, wash away my iniquities and cleanse me from my sin.'

The priest bows as a sign of humility.