

# The Good Knight

*“In Service to One,  
In Service to All”*



Issue 15

May 2024

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**Greetings!** Spring is in the air, and we embrace it wholeheartedly. The month of May brings to mind Mother's Day, and – as May is the month of Mary – the rosary. As we are still in the midst of the Easter season, and will be until the Feast of Pentecost on May 19, there is much to celebrate!

Thank you for reading *The Good Knight*.

Louis Kloster, Editor and Current Grand Knight

## Important Dates

### May 2024



- 1 Pilgrim Icon prayer service  
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
- 5 COR Gathering at 7 p.m.
- 8 Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting by Zoom
- 10 Feast of St. Damien (Saint of the Month)
- 12 Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
- 15 Knights of Columbus General Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Parish Family Dance
- 19 Pentecost Sunday  
K of C Pancake breakfast
- 20 Victoria Day (Monday)
- 31 Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Knight of the Month



In April we honored Bro. Michael Bilodeau as our Knight of the Month. Michael joined the Knights in January and quickly became involved in council activities. With Bro. Tim Morris, he facilitated the horse races after the spaghetti dinner in February. Michael also helps with pancake breakfasts.

At the 11 a.m. Mass on Sundays, Michael is one of the many young men regularly and reverently serving at the altar.

For the last year Michael has been one of the young adult leaders of our parish youth group, *The Rock*. In the months ahead, Michael will be co-leading the young adult group in the parish. He has a servant's heart and exemplifies the qualities of 'a good Knight'. Thanks, Michael, for the many ways you contribute to life in our parish. God bless!

## 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 April we honored Vincent and Madison Coulombe. Although relatively new to



our parish community, Vincent and Madison have quickly become involved in parish life, generously sharing their gifts and talents. Vincent is an active member of our council and sings in the French choir at the 9 a.m. Sunday mass. He assisted at the spaghetti dinner in February and impressed everyone with his auctioneering skills at the horse races that followed. Madison serves as the secretary for the Catholic Women's League. Both are effective proclaimers of God's word at Mass and are also committed to serving the broader community through their work with Club Beaumont.

Thank you, Vincent and Madison, for your commitment to parish life at St. Vital. God bless!

# The Good Knight

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

### Outdoor Way of the Cross

On Good Friday, the Knights assisted with the Outdoor Way of the Cross, which starts three blocks east of the church and ends in the grotto dedicated to Mother Mary. Thanks to all who participated, especially those who read the reflections at each of the fourteen stations and those who carried the cross. Despite the cooler weather, there were sixty or seventy people who joined the prayer walk. This year, the other Christian faith communities in Beaumont were invited to join us, making this an ecumenical event. In this photo, several children were eager to help carry the cross, just as Simon the Cyrene did on the road to Calvary.



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### COR Initiative

Nine men met for the fourth COR gathering, which was held on Sunday, April 7. COR is a time for men in the parish to pray, engage in a scripture program called *Men of the Word*, and enjoy fellowship with each other. The next COR gathering is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 at the home of Louis Kloster (100, 50511 Range Road 234). Come and see what COR is all about.

### 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:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Toby McEachern   | Passed Away      |
| • Richard Duguay   | Sick             |
| • Larry Rowan      | Cancer           |
| • Linda Ritchie    | Illness / Family |
| • Albertine Porter | Cancer           |
| • John Stretch     | Sick             |
| • John Kloster     | Cancer           |

### Seniors Brunch

Once a year, our council prepares and serves brunch for the seniors at the Seniors Centre. This year, we provided that community service on Sunday, April 7. We are grateful to our ten generous volunteers. From



left to right, Bros. Sid Eriavaz, Jam Abello, Gerry Goudreau, Gary Fisher, John deRuiter, Gabriel deRuiter, Joe Stack, Vincent deRuiter, Dustin Bernes, and Tim Morris.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Birthdays in May

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

- |          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| • May 10 | Victor Hinse         |
| • May 12 | Paul Weisenberger    |
| • May 15 | Tuyen Nguyen         |
| • May 16 | Jam Abello           |
| • May 20 | Andre Charbonneau    |
| • May 24 | Mark Pickup          |
| • May 24 | Patrick Stack        |
| • May 28 | Jean-Pierre Lefebvre |



### Wedding Anniversaries in May

- |        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| May 17 | Dan & Dale Chalifoux  |
| May 27 | John & Donita Kloster |

### Soap Box Derby

Sign up early for this year's Soap Box Derby sponsored by Our Lady of the Hill Council 13064. This fun event takes place on Saturday, May 25, as part of the City's Beaumont Days celebration. Kids ages 8 through 13 are eligible to race. The entrance fee is \$10.00, which guarantees each youngster a minimum of three runs down the hill on 50th Avenue hill.

Registration forms as well as Rules and Regulations are available on the K of C link on the Parish website as well as on the City of Beaumont website. If you have questions, please contact Paul Weisenberger at 780-929-5150.

### Pilgrim Icon of St. Joseph

On Wednesday, May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, our parish once again has the privilege of praying with an icon of St. Joseph. At 7 p.m. we will gather for the recitation of the Rosary, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist. We hope you will be able to join us.



### Kevin Kerrigan Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship, sponsored by Our Lady of the Hill Knights of Columbus Council, is open to high school students graduating this year who attend St. Vital Church, as well as to members of the Parish who are attending post secondary schooling at any level. Preference will be given to a Grade 12 student.

The scholarship has a value of \$500.00 and will be awarded on the basis of all-around achievement and not strictly academic performance. Achievement in the areas of athletics, the arts, school, community and church involvement will be considered as well. In determining the successful recipient, the individual's financial need will also be taken into consideration. The deadline for applying is May 31, 2024. Applications forms and additional information are at the back of church. They are also available on the St. Vital Parish website. (See K of C link.)

# The Good Knight

## Word of the Month:



### Theotokos

'Theotokos' is a title given to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Used since the third century and more commonly in the Eastern Church, the Church officially adopted the term at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. The name derives from two ancient Greek words: *Theo*, meaning 'God', and *Tokos*, which means

'childbirth'. Literally, Theotokos translates as "she whose offspring is God". Therefore, Theotokos refers to Mary as the 'Mother of God' or 'God-bearer'.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries, prior to the Council of Ephesus, there was a theological dispute in the Church over the use of this term. Of course, Mary is not the Mother of God the Father; she did not exist before God. She is recognized as Theotokos because she gave birth to Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Jesus is both divine *and* human; He is true God *and* true man. Jesus is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, but He was born as the Son of Mary two thousand years ago. And so, when we pray the Hail Mary, we confidently say, "Holy Mary, *Mother of God*, pray for us."

By the early 6<sup>th</sup> century, Mary, holding Jesus in her arms, was being depicted in iconography. Since the early medieval period, Mary has been venerated as Mother of God. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century icon of Our Lady of Kazan above, Mary is represented as the protector of this Russian city.

## Liturgical Matters

### Why is Jesus called the 'Lamb of God'?

The Jewish people were accustomed to sacrificing lambs to make payment to God for their sins and to show their devotion to God. Jesus' death was the perfect offering to God for our sins. He became the Lamb, the offering to God.

In the story of the Passover, just prior to Moses' escape from Egypt, the Hebrew people killed a lamb and placed its blood on the door frames of each home. The lamb was a substitute for the oldest boy who would have died in that home, if the Egyptians had been able to fulfill their plans. The Hebrew people understood that to be saved from death, an innocent life would have to be sacrificed in their places. Jesus was that perfect Lamb, that perfect sacrifice.

In preaching the need for repentance, St. John the Baptist identified his cousin, Jesus, by saying, 'Behold the Lamb of God' (John 1: 29).

## St. Vital Saturday Sports Camp

- Dates: May 5, 11, & 25 and June 1, 8, & 15 (Saturdays)
- Families are invited to participate in an hour of fun sports activities including soccer, capture the flag, and more.
- Meet in the St. Vital Parking lot at 11:30 a.m.
- For more information contact K of C Family program chairperson Gerard McLarney at [t.mclarney12@gmail.com](mailto:t.mclarney12@gmail.com)
- Bring a water bottle and good footwear.

## Have You Heard This One?

An inebriated man was walking by the river, and he stumbled upon a baptismal service. He proceeded to walk into the water to see what was going on. And the preacher turned and asked him, "Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?"

"Yes, preacher, I sure am," replied the man.

So the preacher dunked him in the water and said, "Have you found Jesus?"

"No, sir, I haven't."

And again, he was dunked and was asked, "My good man, have you found Jesus?"

"No, Reverend, I still have not."

So, in disgust, the preacher held him under the water until the man was almost blue. When he pulled him up, he asked him again, "Have you not yet found Jesus?"

Now the man sputtered, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

**HE WHO TRUSTS IN HIMSELF IS LOST.  
HE WHO TRUSTS IN GOD CAN DO ALL THINGS.**

St. Alphonsus Liguori



## Pentecost: Pertinent Points

*Everything you wanted to know about the Feast of Pentecost but were afraid to ask*

- Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning 'fiftieth day'.
- Its roots are in a Jewish celebration known as the Feast of Weeks. It was a time of thanksgiving. People attended the temple and offered the first two loaves of bread from the season's grain harvest.
- Scripture tells us that, after Jesus' ascension into heaven, on the Jewish Feast of Weeks – the day of Pentecost, Christ's apostles and the Virgin Mary gathered to pray (Acts 2). It was a Sunday – the Lord's Day. The Holy Spirit appeared as a strong wind and as tongues of fire over the heads of the disciples. Strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to preach Christ's message to all people.
- Pentecost marks the beginning of our Church; from this day forth, the Good News of Jesus was preached and eventually spread around the world. It is recognized as the birthday of the Church. And so, at St. Vital, cake will be served after each mass on the Pentecost weekend.
- Today, we celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Easter, marking the end of the Easter season. This year, in 2024, it falls on May 19.
- On Pentecost, the priest wears red vestments, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we can grow in holiness, proclaim the faith we share, and more diligently live the mission of Jesus.

# The Good Knight

## Dissecting the Nicene Creed

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

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

- As usual, Jesus sets the example for us. Our baptism into the family of God is derived from the baptism of Jesus, who was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.
- Jesus was anointed by God's Spirit, which descended in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven proclaimed him to be God's Son, with whom God was well pleased.
- We only need to be baptized once, unlike other sacraments, like Reconciliation or Eucharist, which we are to receive repeatedly.
- The baptism of Jesus symbolized the new relationship that God would establish with humankind through Jesus' saving work. Through His suffering, Jesus would atone or make up for the sins of all humankind.
- Through baptism our sins are washed away.
- The word 'confess' means 'profess belief in' and involves both the heart and the head.

## Saint of the Month St. Damien

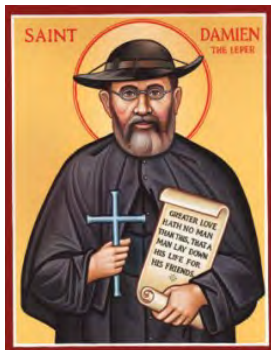
St. Damien is known as the 'Apostle of the Lepers'. He was born in Belgium in 1840 and named Joseph de Veuster. His father was a small farmer, and when Joseph was only 13, he was taken out of school to work on the family farm. In his late teens, Joseph joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and he took on the religious name of Damien.



When his brother, a priest in the same order, was unable to carry out missionary work in the Hawaiian Islands, Damien volunteered to go instead. It was in Honolulu that Damien was ordained a priest and assigned to the large island of Hawaii. There he built several chapels.

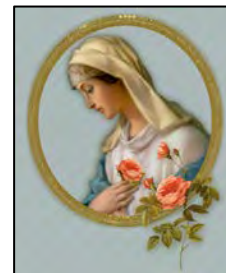
On the nearby island of Molokai, a leper colony had been set up. Father Damien volunteered to remain with the lepers, caring for their physical, medical and spiritual needs. There he helped to build new houses as well as a new church, school, and orphanage. He even dug graves and helped to bury those who died of leprosy. He was able to find other people to work along with him to help the suffering.

Eventually, in 1885, Father Damien became ill with this contagious, terrible disease. For the next four years he continued his charitable works until, after fifteen years of service to the lepers, he died. Father Damien was canonized on October 11, 2009. His feast day is May 10.



## Mary's Association with Flowers

Flowers have often been associated with Mary. The white lily symbolizes Mary's immaculate purity, whereas violets are a sign of her humility. Lady slippers remind us of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, while wild thyme symbolizes her love. The marigold is named after her. And there are many more.



The rose is perhaps the flower most connected with Mary. Our prayer to Mary – the rosary – is named after a garland or bouquet of roses. This month we can honor Mary in our liturgies by decorating the altar or our prayer tables with flowers of Mary.

## You Were Wondering ...

*What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how do they differ from the fruit of the Holy Spirit?*

Jesus teaches us the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, fear of the Lord (awe and wonder), right judgment (counsel), knowledge, fortitude (courage), piety (reverence).

When we allow the Spirit to work in our lives, we – like a tree – produce fruit. St. Paul introduces the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit in his letter to the Galatians (5: 22). They are love, joy, goodness, peace, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, patience, and self-control.

## Let Us Pray ... for Mothers

Father, we remember and celebrate mothers. We are in awe when we stop and think about the power women have to imprint the lives of the children placed in their care. What a privilege! What a responsibility!

God, thank you for the mothers you gave us. We are thankful for the ways they shaped us in healthy, positive ways, and we forgive them for their mistakes. We choose to focus on the fact that You used them to create us and give us life.

Thank you for the embracing arms of the women who weren't our mothers but who loved us like we were their own. Be near to those longing to be a mom, those grieving the loss of a child, and those missing estranged children; we entrust them and their future to you.



God, for those who are in the midst of mothering right now, give them courage to make hard decisions; give them tough skin so that they can resist the pressures of our culture to compromise godly values; give them physical energy and stamina to outlast even the busiest teenager; give them wisdom beyond their own ability to know when to listen and when to speak; give them faith to steer their children to a personal and vibrant faith in Jesus.

Please give all mothers joy in shaping the lives of their children, hope in their dark days, and above all, love that is willing to sacrifice. Amen.

~ Pastor Rick Warren