

The Good Knight

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



Issue 10

December 2023

In this issue:

- Saint of the Month: St. Barbara
- Word of the Month: Incarnation
- The Role of the Inside/Outside Guards
- Knight of the Month / Family of the Month
- The Nicene Creed – The Incarnation of God
- Pro-Life Corner
- A Christmas Quiz
- Cor Initiative for All Men in the Parish

Greetings! Now the waiting has begun. We welcome the beginning of another liturgical year, which begins with the First Sunday of Advent on December 3. The four weeks of Advent are a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth over 2000 years ago. Advent invites us to open up ourselves more fully to the Lord who is coming to us in countless ways in the present and who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

As Blessed Teresa of Calcutta once said, “The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed, and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us - to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form he may come to us.” And so, let us work diligently and faithfully at preparing ourselves and our families – not only for Advent and Christmas – but for the everlasting life to come.

Thank you for reading *The Good Knight*.

Louis Kloster, Editor and Current Grand Knight

Pie Sale

A pie sale in conjunction with the Catholic Women's League (CWL) will take place in the church basement after each mass on January 13/14, 2024. All Knights and CWL members are encouraged to bake some pies for this sale, which will be a fundraiser. We hope that all parishioners will support us with the purchase of a homemade pie.



Important Dates

December 2023

- 3 First Sunday of Advent
- 4 Feast of St. Barbara
- 6 Feast of St. Nicholas
- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 13 Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting by Zoom
- 17 Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast
- 20 Knights of Columbus General Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day (Feast of the Nativity)
- 26 Feast of St. Stephen
- 27 Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents
- 31 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Keep Christ In Christmas Coloring Contest 2023

This annual contest is open to St. Vital parishioners in Grades 1 – 9. Three cash prizes will be awarded in each of these categories: Grades 1 – 3, 4 – 6, and 7 – 9. Entries should be created on paper 8½” x 11” or larger, and must be original and in color, using pencil crayons, wax crayons, pastels, or paint. Most importantly, entries must reflect the theme of the contest, i.e. “Keep Christ in Christmas”.



Entry forms can be found at the back of the church and must be submitted in the marked basket on the table at the entrance to the church no later than noon on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Winning entries will be announced in the parish bulletin and on the parish website in late December or early January. More details are provided on the entry forms.

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: Chemical abortion is safe for women.

Pro-life response: While abortion activists call the two-drug chemical abortion protocol a "gold standard" method for killing preborn babies, it is not without risk of serious harm and even death to the mother. Sold as "Mifegymiso" in Canada, product literature describes adverse reactions to include "persistent or heavy vaginal bleeding" that may require "treatment with intravenous fluids or blood transfusion"; "nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain"; "headaches, dizziness, chills and fever"; infectious complications include "sometimes fatal sepsis" and infection that can lead "rapidly to multi-organ failure and death." Newspaper reports reveal that numerous women from around the world have died after chemical abortion.



The Good of the Order

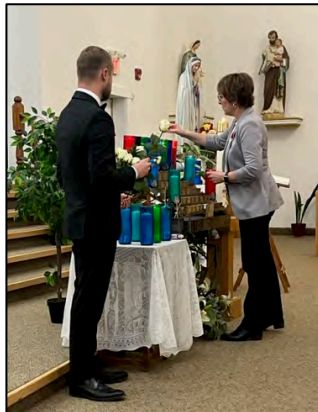
Every month the Knights pray for the sick in the parish as well as relatives and friends who are in need of God's help. We call this the Good of the Order. We invite you to join us in praying for the following individuals:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Wilbur Collin | Family members |
| • Roland Comire | Father to Bro. David Comire |
| • Adele Crook | Heart issues |
| • D.D. Florent Duguay | Prostate cancer treatments |
| • Joe Lauer | Stroke recovery |
| • Albertine Porter | Cancer |
| • Linda Ritchie | Illness / Family |
| • Larry Rowan | Prostate Surgery Recovery |
| • John Stretch | Illness |
| • Paula Vogstad | Illness / Family |

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights

Each year, our council organizes a memorial mass to remember and pray for our deceased Knights, which now number 19. The Mass, held this year on November 9, was well attended, with members of fifteen families present. Each family was invited to light a vigil candle in honor of their loved one, and each was presented with a white rose. In this photo, Jacquie Vallee lights a vigil candle in remembrance of her father, Marcel Gobeil. Bro. Vincent deRuijter stands ready to present her with a white rose.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Birthdays in December

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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • December 3 | Glen Babichuk |
| • December 9 | Ken Kobly |
| • December 13 | Hie Nage |
| • December 15 | John M. Kloster |
| • December 19 | Henri Tessier |
| • December 10 | Perry Hendriks |
| • December 23 | Laurier Gobeil |



Anniversaries in December

- Sid & Angelica Eriavaz December 23

Cor Initiative



The Knights of Columbus is inviting all men in the parish – not just Knights – to participate in a new initiative called *Cor*. *Cor* is the Latin word for 'heart' and the root of the word, *courage*. Once a month, our group would gather for 60 – 90 minutes to pray, engage in a faith formation program, and enjoy each other's company. *Cor* is intended to empower Catholic men to live their faith and to serve their family, parish, community, and country.

Why should one consider attending *Cor* gatherings?

- Our families need strong husbands and fathers.
- Prayer, faith formation, and fraternity are essential to the life of any disciple of Christ. Too often they are missing from the lives of men.
- Surveys reveal that men need and are seeking this spiritual enrichment.

Grand Knight Louis Kloster, Deputy Grand Knight Gabriel deRuijter, and Financial Secretary Paul Weisenberger are part of the *Cor* leadership team and will be planning gatherings that are meaningful, enjoyable, and comfortable for all participants. Our plan is to begin early in the new year. More details will be shared in the weeks ahead.

Keep Christ in Christmas.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Our Council is sponsoring an essay contest that is open to young people in Grades 8 through Grade 12. Participants are asked to write an essay of 500 to 750 words on the topic, "How Can the Church Evangelize in the Digital Age?" Judging is based on content, grammar and style. We will be offering 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes of \$100.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively. Entry forms have more information and are available at the back of the church. The deadline for submissions: January 15, 2024.



The Good Knight

Saint of the Month: St. Barbara

The story of St. Barbara is a fascinating one. She was a beautiful maiden who lived 1700 years ago, during the 4th century. Barbara's father wanted her to marry, and many young men asked for her hand in marriage, but she refused every time. For her disobedience, her father imprisoned Barbara in a high tower to keep her under control. (It sounds a bit like the Grimm Brothers' story of Rapunzel.)



Within the tower, Barbara was taught by philosophers and poets. She learned about Jesus and became a Christian, devoting much of her time to prayer and to studying the faith.

One account reported that, just before leaving on a journey, her father ordered a bathhouse be constructed for Barbara. In his absence, Barbara had three windows built (instead of two) ... one for each person in the Holy Trinity. Upon his return, she professed to her father that she was a Christian. This made her father, who was a pagan, so angry that he wanted to kill her. Barbara escaped, but her father caught her. She was tortured repeatedly, but her wounds miraculously healed each morning. Eventually, Barbara was beheaded by her own father. He was immediately struck by lightning and consumed by, what some people say was, fire from heaven.



The feast of St. Barbara is celebrated every year on December 4. She is the patron saint of firefighters, construction workers and mathematicians.

Saint Barbara is often depicted with a chalice and a tower with three windows, as is the case in this Russian icon of the saint.

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 November we honored Eric and Nadia LaFoy. Eric is a gifted wood craftsman. He, along with Bro. Joe Lauer, creates the memorial plaques for our deceased brother knights. Nadia is an active member of the Catholic Women's League. She serves on both the parish social committee and pastoral care committee. She also assists with the decorating of the church for Christmas, Easter, and the other seasons in the liturgical year.



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:

For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

- We need salvation. We live in a sinful world, and we are powerless to change this state of affairs. Christ calls us to salvation ... to turn away from a world of temptation and evil to a world of love and mercy. He is instrumental in helping us do that.
- In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke we read how Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb through the action of the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God gives us Emmanuel, which means 'God With Us'.
- Mary, since she gave birth to the eternal Son of God, who is God Himself, is therefore the Mother of God.
- 'Incarnate' is another word that was introduced to the Creed in 2011. It means 'given flesh' and professes our belief that the Word became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. (We used to say 'By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man'.)
- At the words, 'and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary', we are invited to bow.

Word of the Month:

Incarnation

One of the most basic tenets of our creed is that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. He is true God and true man. This mystery is known as the Incarnation. The word derives from the Latin verb *incarno*, which means 'to be made flesh'. At Christmas, we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Word Made Flesh. He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother" (CCC #469). And as a man, Jesus felt deep emotion, experienced temptation, and endured pain, just like any other human being. The only exception is that Jesus never sinned.

Do You Know the Story of the First Christmas?

We learn the story of Christ's birth from the Gospels of Matthew (1: 18 – 2: 12) and Luke (2: 1 – 20). However, Christian tradition has introduced new content to the Infancy Narrative. Test your knowledge. What's true, and what's not?

1. Jesus was born in a house in Bethlehem.
2. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem.
3. Three wise men visited Jesus at his birth.
4. The wise men followed a star.
5. The wise men were kings in their home country.
6. An ox and a donkey were present.
7. Mary and Joseph traveled from Bethlehem on a donkey.
8. The innkeeper was cold-hearted and unkind.

The answers are on the last page.

The Good Knight

Sharon's Christmas Prayer

An Inspirational Piece for All

She was five, sure of the facts,
and recited them with slow solemnity,
convinced every word was revelation.

She said

*They were so poor.
They had only peanut butter
and jelly sandwiches to eat
and they went a long way
from home without getting lost.
The lady rode a donkey,
the man walked,
and the baby was inside the lady.
They had to stay in a stable
with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)
but the three Rich Men found them
because a star lighted the roof.
Shepherds came
and you could pet the sheep
but not feed them.
Then the baby was borned.
And do you know who he was?*



Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars.

The baby was God!

And she jumped in the air, whirled round, dove into the sofa
and buried her head under the cushion, which is the only
proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

by John Shea

You Asked Us...

What is the role of the Inside/Outside Guards on the council executive?

At this time the role of the Inside Guard remains vacant. Currently, the Outside Guard of Our Lady of the Hill Council #13064 is Dennis Madu. As the Inside Guard, Bro. Dennis:

- Attends the doors of the council chamber, checking for current membership cards.
- Oversees inside and outside guards
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct

The jewel of the council guards is two crossed axes and a shield, marked with a key, suspended from a white ribbon. The shield and axe are symbolic of protection; the key is emblematic of guardianship. The ribbon of white represents purity and diligence to duty.



'Swearing' at School

Sitting outside the principal's office, three students compare their infractions: An ashamed little girl says, "I said the 'S-H' word. A rebellious boy says, "I said the 'F' word.' A confused child says, "I said 'Christmas'."

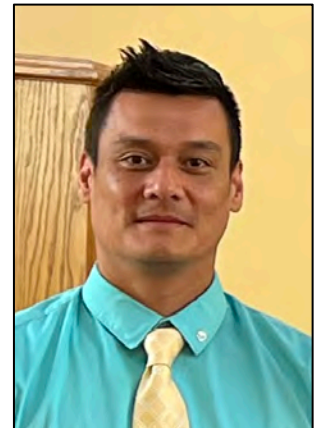
Liturgical Matters

Why does the priest pour a drop of water into the chalice of wine during the Preparation of the Gifts?

In ancient times this was necessary because the wine was very thick and heavy; adding water made it easier to drink. Today adding a drop of water to the wine is symbolic. It symbolizes the dual nature of Jesus, Who is fully divine and fully human. And Sacred Scripture tells us that, when Jesus was on the cross and was pierced in the side, both water and blood flowed from the wound (John 19: 34).

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 November we honored Bro. Andrew Chatelaine. Andrew joined our council just last June and soon became very involved in council and parish activities. Andrew volunteers for our monthly pancake breakfasts. Over the summer he helped with the maintenance of the churchyard and cemetery. He also shares his gifts and skills as a member of the parish maintenance committee. Andrew is always eager to help. We have noticed that Andrew serves in all these ways with a cheerful heart. Thank you, Andrew! God bless!



You Asked ...

What is the origin of the word 'Christmas'?

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the word *Christmas* originates from the phrase "Cristes Maesse", first recorded in 1038. The name is derived from two Old English words that mean "Mass of Christ" or "Christ's Mass. The first known celebrations of Christmas took place in Rome in 336 A.D.

Answers to Christmas Quiz:

1. Not known. The wise men found the Holy Family in a house in Bethlehem (Matt. 2: 11).
2. Not known. Jesus was placed in a manger, which could have been in a cave, a stable, or a home (Luke 2: 7).
3. Not known. Wise men (magi) from the East brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, but there is no mention as to how many wise men came (Mt. 2: 1 – 11).
4. False. The Magi saw a star rise when they left their home (Mt. 2: 2). They saw the star again while enroute to Bethlehem (Mt. 2: 9).
5. Not known. Little is known about the magi. Scholars believe they were astrologers and diviners.
6. False. Neither animal is mentioned in the gospels.
7. Not known. There is no mention as to how the couple traveled to Bethlehem.
8. Unknown. The gospels simply say there was no room at the inn (Luke 2: 7).