



## *Knights in Action* **December 2023 NEWSLETTER**

### **Grand Knight's Message**



Greetings during the holy season of Christmas as we take time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives. It has been a busy year for our Council, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Br. Knights who have served our parish family and community so willingly. This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of Council 11053 which has passed by quietly. Despite this, the

accomplishments of the founding members and those who have served in the interim speaks volumes and can never be forgotten.

Each year, we hold a special votive Mass in honor of our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney, and our deceased Br. Knights as we remember them in prayer by the memorial monument in the Marian Garden. May God grant them eternal rest and reward them for the many good deeds they have accomplished. We were blessed to have Fr. Kevin, Fr. Innocent and Deacon Ian concelebrate the Mass on October 26, 2023, making it truly special.

One of our objectives for the coming year is to see if we can engage more of our members, especially the younger generation. The Knights of Columbus website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) offers many resources to enhance the practice of our catholic faith. One such program is COR which focuses on empowering Catholic men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community, and country. Why? Because families need strong husbands and fathers, and the world needs courageous witnesses to Jesus Christ. We have formed a subcommittee to review the Cor program and hope to implement it in the New Year.

We will also conduct a telephone survey among members in January 2024 to determine the

direction we should be heading and the programs which best serve our purpose as Knights of Columbus. DGK Gary will head up this initiative and I encourage you to cooperate with him when called upon for your opinion.



Our Christmas Dinner with the CWL comes up on Monday, December 4, 2023, with the Marconi Club catering

and is a wonderful opportunity for the CWL and the K of C to relax and enjoy each other's company for a few hours.

On behalf of Bridget and myself, may you all have a happy and holy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

*SK Anthony (Tony) Nother*  
*Grand Knight*



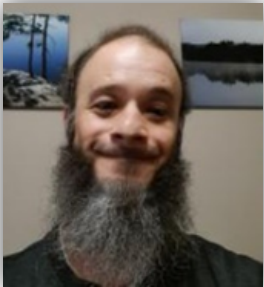


# OF COLUMBUS

## Council 11053

c/o St John the Divine Parish  
390 Baseline Rd W  
London, ON N6J 1W1

### Warden's Message



#### **The Life of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus**

#### ***PRACTICAL VISION, ENDURING MISSION***

With an eye toward  
leading others to heaven,

Father McGivney was attentive to the ways of the world as he worked to better the spiritual and temporal conditions of his immigrant parishioners. His innovative efforts to draw laypeople closer to Christ – especially through his founding of the fraternal Order of the Knights of Columbus – was creative, effective, and bold.

A priest who knew him well wrote:

Genial, approachable, of kindly disposition, cheerful under reverses, profoundly sympathetic with those upon whom had fallen the heavy hand of affliction, a man of strict probity and sterling integrity in his business transactions. He was charitable to a fault ... The poor found in him a good Samaritan and were the frequent recipients of his bounty. ... There are few clergymen in my recollection who enjoyed in a greater degree than he the respect of his colleagues and the reverence of the people. ... His energy was restless, ever seeking new outlets. And to this disposition are we indebted for the existence of the Knights of Columbus.

When he arrived for his first assignment at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, he met an ailing pastor who had to turn much of the pastoral work over to his new assistant. In a letter to his seminary mentor, he wrote that the whole work of the parish had been laid upon his shoulders and he had been unable to take even one day off. Seven years later, as pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Father McGivney's workload only increased, with a mission church added to his duties. Falling ill during the global viral pandemic of 1889-90, Father McGivney developed tuberculosis and was forced to cut back on his routine to seek a cure. After months of heroic struggle against the illness, and after intense prayer for his parishioners and their future, he finally received the last rites and succumbed to pneumonia on Aug. 14, 1890, two days past his 38th birthday.

The funeral Mass and procession were attended by Knights and other Catholics from across Connecticut, and even secular news reports described him as an exemplary priest and a model Christian man.

#### **Next: HIS LEGACY**

*Br. Louis Goldenberg*  
*Warden*

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### We Mourn the Passing of Br. Robert "Bob" Richardson



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Richardson, on November 12, 2023 in his 75th year. Surrounded by his family at home, Bob peacefully checked into heaven's

clubhouse. He lived life to its fullest enjoying many hours on the golf course and perfecting his garden. Bob led by example with a servant's heart. Devoted both to his work and church, St. John the Divine.

Those in need in the area were well served by Bob's dedication to St Vincent de Paul and we Society members enjoyed and appreciated his participation in every St Vincent de Paul activity. He will be especially remembered at this time of year (and for many Decembers in the future) for his leadership of the Christmas Hamper campaign. Because of Bob, this huge undertaking went off without a hitch, year after year.

Bob was an incredibly loyal husband, father and friend; married to his beloved "rock", Cathy Richardson for 49 years. Bob leaves behind his 4 children: Christopher (Andrea), Kelly (Larry), Jeremy (Sherri), Katie (Nelson) and 10 grandchildren: Emily, Jack, Audrey, Grady, Hugo,

Eleanor, Micah, Monico, Leo and Frances, to carry on his legacy of supporting one another and always leading with kindness. The family is indebted to the care they received from the healthcare professionals at LHSC and the compassion from the St. Joseph's Palliative Care team.

The Funeral Mass took place on Saturday, November 18 at St. George's Parish

Donations can be made to St. John the Divine parish, St. Vincent DePaul.

### Saint Vincent de Paul - St John the Divine Christmas Hamper Campaign



St. Vincent de Paul at St John the Divine will welcome 150 families in need to the church Hall on December 9th where they will be hosted by a personal shopper to make their way through the "market" (see above picture from last year's Hamper Campaign), to select a bountiful supply of non-perishables, sundry items, fruit and vegetable along with gift cards from No Frills or Food Basics, Giant Tiger and, for the families with children, a toy, games, puzzles, books and craft supplies.

Early in November, the Parishioners at St John the Divine answered the call for food donations big





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time, in the most successful **Fill the Sack** food drive ever. It's a great start in meeting the needs for December 9th as the total cost of the hampers would be approximately \$16,000 in food, if all would have to be purchased and another \$12,000 in gift cards.

More food is needed, and donations can still be dropped off at the bins in the Narthex at St John the Divine.

Also in November, The St John the Divine Giving Tree campaign will begin. Parishioners were asked to select a star from the tree. These are requests for \$10 cards for Dollarama, Tim Horton's, or McDonalds – or a new-unwrapped toy for a Girl or Boy.

**A request to you, Brothers;** we need volunteers to assist on Saturday December 9th; "It takes a village" of at least 75 volunteers to make the morning a success so if you can spare a few hours, please contact Brother Conrad Marcotte by email [cpmarcotte78@gmail.com](mailto:cpmarcotte78@gmail.com) or give him a call at 519-690-2177 and he will send you details of the tasks for your consideration.

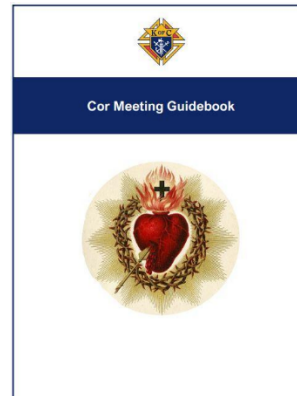


While it looks like a very steep mountain to climb to make December 9th a success, it WILL be a success as the generosity and prayers and willingness to help by the Springbank Family always comes through.

*Br. Conrad Marcotte*

## The World Needs Courageous Men To Witness To Jesus Christ.

### Excerpts from the Cor startup Guide



**Cor** exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through, prayer, formation, and fraternity.

Through *Cor*, men will be formed and sharpened as

disciples of Jesus, who are committed to serving him and willing to boldly live and share their faith. It is the mandate of every Catholic man to bring Jesus to a broken world. To live his faith and engage in this mission, every Catholic man needs a strong relationship with God that is rooted in prayer and the sacraments. Catholic men need to proactively invest in their ongoing faith formation, to be a part of a dynamic brotherhood that supports, sharpens, and strengthens them to be holy men, husbands, and fathers, and to engage in the mission of the Church.

A subcommittee consisting of Deacon Don St Onge, Rick Tomaszewski, Pete Mosey and Tony Nother have come together to review the *Cor* program and to promote it amongst our Br. Knights, commencing in the New Year.

We will provide additional information as a plan of action is developed. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers and call upon the Holy Spirit for guidance.

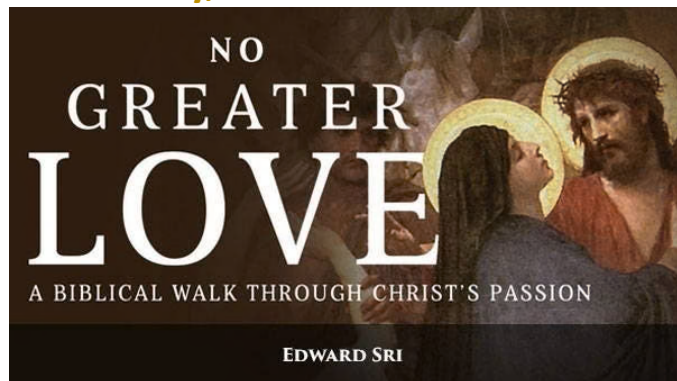


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### Bible Study, No Greater Love



Bible Study, No Greater Love, with Dr. Edward Sri will commence on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and continue for five consecutive weeks leading up to Holy Week.

All sessions will be held in the hall at St. John the Divine from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Our biblical walk-through Christ's passion begins on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus came with his disciples to pray, culminating in his agony and death on the Cross. No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us and is an excellent preparation leading up to Holy Week.

Further information and registrations will take place early in the New Year.

*SK Anthony (Tony) Nother*

### Happy Birthday Br. Knights



Russell Benner	December 7, 1971
Luis Alberto Sanchez	December 11, 1970
Peter Sweeney	December 12, 1957
Michael Morelli	December 14, 1964
Rick Tomaszewski	December 17, 1963
Tony Martens	January 9, 1943
Bill Grenier	January 11, 1944
Peter Harvey	January 11, 1945
Jonathan Goldenberg	January 21, 1982
Ian Brennan	January 22, 1956



### Congratulations to Jacqueline & Louis Goldenberg!

Congratulations to Jacqueline & Louis Goldenberg

on the safe arrival of a beautiful baby girl. Eleanor Judith was born on October 2, 2023, at 5:20 am,



weighing in at 6 lbs. 6 oz. Best wishes on the new addition to your family and may God bless you all with his love and protection.





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### London Food Bank Project – Thanksgiving 2023

Total donations city wide of actual food came to a grand total of 78,722 lbs.

I'd like to thank the Knights of Columbus volunteers for their faithfulness and enthusiasm as they encouraged shoppers to pick up donations for the London Food Bank. As in the past, it made a substantial difference in increasing awareness of the drive and in nudging people towards that generous side in themselves. Your Council, volunteering at the Commissioners and Wonderland Food

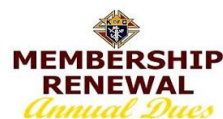


Basics, generated a total of 448 bags. At 11 lbs per bag, that came to 4928 lbs of food. The conversion rate of \$3.12 per pound gives a total of \$15,375.36 worth of food donations.

Thank you so much to Council 11053 for participating in this year's food drive.

All the best,

*Brian Radcliffe*  
**General Manager**  
**London Food Bank**



### Membership Dues

Membership dues are now payable for 2024. Cost is \$40.00 per member, if paid by December 31, 2023, otherwise, cost will be \$50.00 effective January 1, 2024. Please remit payment to Knights of Columbus, Council 11053.

Several options are available:

- You may drop off dues in the collection basket at weekend Masses, marked to the attention of Br. Nick Vecchio.
- If convenient, you may e-transfer payment of dues to: FS11053@ontariokofc.ca
- Dues may also be mailed to:  
Br. Nick Vecchio  
Financial Secretary  
Knights of Columbus, Council 11053  
795 Eagletrace Drive, London, ON  
N6G 0E9

Please note the following:

Honorary Members (all those who have attained the age of 65 and have been a member for 25 years) pay only \$10.00.

Honorary Life Members (all those who have attained the age of 70 and have been a member for 25 years or those members who have been a Knight for 50 years regardless of their age) are exempt from dues.

New Members (all those who became a Knight after June of 2023) are exempt for next year, 2024.

Your attention to remitting annual dues in a timely manner would be appreciated.



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### Keeping Christ in Christmas

As a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas, the coming of Jesus into our world to save us from our sins, Christmas buttons will be available in the narthex. We will start on Saturday, December 2, 2023, and will continue up to and including Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2023.



Christmas buttons will be offered to parishioners exiting the Church following Mass. Donations will be gratefully accepted in exchange for the buttons. May we suggest that if anybody admires the Christmas button you are wearing, please pass it on as a gift and come back for another button. All proceeds are for the Knights of Columbus Charities.

May you all have a Holy and Peaceful Christmas as you welcome the Child Jesus into your hearts and your homes.

*Br. Ted Bartlett,*  
**Chancellor**



### 40 Days for Life

London Right to Life organized the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil which began on September 27, 2023, and continued until November 5, 2023. The campaign involves dedicating an hour or two of your time to silently praying outside the premises of Victoria Hospital for the pre-born and their mothers, the most vulnerable, as well as those who provide or support abortions.



Since its inception in 2004, the global 40 Days for Life campaign has resulted in over 23,000 lives saved. St. John the Divine Parish was requested to cover October 24th which we accomplished with the support of our parishioners, some who prayed multiple hours. More support from our K of C

Council would have been welcomed.

The Columbian magazine has many articles written regarding the support that the Knights of Columbus provides for the Unborn Child including the March for Life, purchases of hundreds of ultrasound machines for pregnancy centres and the many activities carried out by local councils. I encourage our Brother Knight's to read these articles and to think about how you and we as a Council might become more involved in supporting the unborn.

I encourage you to consider these activities - March for Life which is held in Ottawa in early May of each year, the March for Life held in London usually around the end of September and the 40 Days for Life held in October/November each year.

*Br. Pete Mosey,*  
**Director, Life Program (FIA)**





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### The Fourth Annual Votive Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney

The Fourth Annual Votive Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney was held on Thursday, October



26, 2023, at St. John the Divine Parish. Mass was concelebrated with Fr. Kevin, Fr. Innocent and Deacon Ian Brennan present. Our choir director, Johanna Hurd, provided special hymns for the occasion.

Fr. Kevin delivered an eloquent homily on

Blessed Michael McGivney, a summary of which follows below.

Notes Based on the homily preached at the Votive Mass for Blessed Michael McGivney at St. John the Divine Parish by Fr. Kevin Beach on October 26, 2023.



With the Church today, we honour the memory and seek the intercession, of Blessed Michael McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus. I have been a pastor in a parish where there is a Knights' Council and a pastor in a parish without a Council.

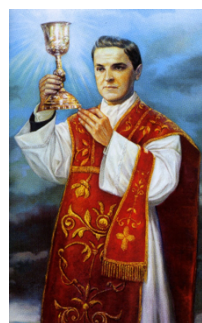
I can tell you that the presence of an active Council of the Knights of Columbus – as we have here and at St. John The Divine and St. George Parish –

makes a world of difference in the life of the parish community.

Today, the Knights of Columbus are among the largest, if not the largest, fraternal organization of Catholic men. Their numbers and impact in the Church, and in our society, are impressive. It is important to remember however, that the Knights were born out of necessity and in the face of adversity. At the end of the nineteenth century in the United States, there were strong currents of people who were anti-Catholic and anti-Irish.

In New England, including Connecticut where the Knights began, many of the Irish Catholic men, breadwinners of their families, were working in the mills where working conditions were harsh, even dangerous. Young families regularly lost husbands and fathers in industrial accidents and were left destitute without any kind of financial support.

At age 13, Blessed Michael personally experienced the loss of his own father. Out of pastoral concern for families, he saw the need for a fraternal organization of Catholic men whose principles of mutual assistance would look after families of members where the breadwinner died. This is an important point in understanding the founding inspiration of the Knights which guides them to this day. The Knights of Columbus are a fraternal



organization of Catholic men, but at the heart of who they are and what they do are Catholic families.

In a time when founding figures and principles are being called into question in our country and





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in the United States, it is important to note the significance of Christopher Columbus whose name was given to the Knights.

Although he sailed to and made the European discovery of North America under the sponsorship of the Spanish monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, Columbus was an Italian. In the United States as part of the wave of new arrivals at the end of the nineteenth century, there was significant Italian immigration. In reaction, racist groups – notably the Ku Klux Klan – organized demonstrations and vandalism against several groups, including Italians and other Catholics. To counter this racist wave, American President Benjamin Harrison established Columbus Day, which was celebrated in the U.S. a few days ago, and which is a source of pride for Italian Americans to this day.

I want to add a final word on the nature of leadership in the Knights of Columbus. Blessed Michael McGivney ensured that the leadership of the Knights would be in the hands of lay men. Priests have always been members and serve the Knights as chaplains. Their role is spiritual. The leadership of the Knights of Columbus is by laymen, named and elected by their brothers. In many respects, Blessed Michael anticipated the call of the Second Vatican Council of the 1960's whereby our Church called laypeople to co-responsibility in the mission of our Church.

At this Votive Mass, we honour the memory of Blessed Michael McGivney and seek his intercession. We pray that his cause for canonization will receive God's blessing and the Church's favourable judgment at an early date. Blessed Michael, pray for us!

### Councils Join Together at Remembrance Day Parade



St. George and St. John the Divine Councils joined in the Remembrance Day Parade conducted by the Byron Legion on Saturday, November 4, 2023. It was an impressive ceremony with representatives from all levels of government, City of London officials, and community groups participating. Prayers were offered by Chaplain, Rev. Frank Mantz, followed by the laying of wreaths.

The parade was led by the London Fire Fighters Pipe Band marching to many familiar tunes – Scotland the Brave, Marie's Wedding, The Road to Dundee while encircling the village of Byron. Traffic was at a standstill or diverted for an hour until the completion of the ceremonies. A social followed in the Legion hall to end a very pleasant day.

***We will be back next year PG!!!***



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### Volunteer Schedule – K of C Roast Beef Dinners



We are at a crossroad with respect to the continuation of our Roast Beef Dinners.

Many of our Knights, both past and present, have volunteered their service since the inception of our meal program and are no longer able to continue, primarily due to age and health reasons. I would like to propose the following schedule to help save the one program that allows us to generate an average of \$1,000.00 per meal for our charities.

6:00 – 11:00 am	Meat Preparation - Ted Bartlett, Tony Nother
9:00 – 11:00 am	Vegetable Preparation – Frances Grech, Gina Tomaszewski, Rick Tomaszewski, John Carson (subs will be needed to fill in)
9:00 – 10:30 am	Table Setting – John Veel, Jim McLaughlin, Gary Vanniere
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Food Stations set-up, coffee/tea/water, – Leo Santos, Pete Mosey, Keith Campbell
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Welcome desk – Sue & John Savel

5:00 – 6:15 pm

50/50 tickets – Tony Nother

5:00 – 6:15 pm

Nine volunteers required to serve meal – will be assigned from 5:00 - 8:00 pm volunteer group

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Tea/coffee service in the hall and clearing of dishes – will be assigned from volunteer group.

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Plate cleaning/cutlery for dishwashing machine – Louis Mizuno, Flavio Mizuno

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Dishwashing – Conrad/Pat Marcotte, Adriaan Vanderlinden, Patrick Bowles (subs will be needed to fill in)

6:30 – 7:00 pm

Clean-up duties – all available volunteers

7:30 pm

All volunteers sit down to enjoy a meal after a hard day's work.

"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there." Virginia Burden

Our next Roast Beef Dinner is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2024



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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