

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEWSLETTER



OPENING COMMENT:

This is my third newsletter. The first one was rushed. It had the basics, but it did not look great.

Getting help is smart. We asked Beth for help. She gave us great technical support at St. George's. Her work made a big difference. People noticed and thanked her!

Now, as I put together this third issue, I want to share my goals.

Council 10843 is known for being active. The executive team and members who come to meetings know this. Volunteers see it too. But what about everyone else?

The newsletter is here to help! I want everyone to know what we are doing as Knights. We work hard to help others and build friendships.

Last time, I wrote about the "blanket" project. A few brothers started it on their own. I also shared news about the new Contact Team. Their goal is to get more members to come to meetings.

I hope these stories keep you informed. Maybe they will inspire you to join in!

Your ideas and comments are always welcome.

Bob Gallant
Editor

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers, I will begin by repeating myself.

First, the fact that I am always challenged by the task of sharing my thoughts.

Second, I am both humbled and thankful for each of you; for the example of your lives as Catholic men and your dedication to service and your faith.

With this as my introduction, allow me to share something I have discovered this Lent. I am a biased man, I have favourites. My favourite saint is St. Francis of Assisi (not because I share a first name). He is my favourite because of his humility and for the organic nature of his Faith. I see it as a visceral thing, coming from his heart and in his soul. The other saint, the one I have learned a few things about this lent is St. Ignatius of Loyola. He is included in an online Lenten retreat. I discovered his "Examen"

"The Examen is a method of reviewing your day..." It involves time set aside for thankful reflection on Our God in our everyday life, supposedly 15 to 20 minutes a day in small pieces.

#1 ASK FOR LIGHT - looking at the day with God's eyes, not our own.
#2 GIVE THANKS - the day we have just lived is God's gift, BE GRATEFUL!

#3 REVIEW THE DAY - look back on the day just completed, guided by the Holy Spirit.

#4 FACE YOUR SHORTCOMINGS - face what is wrong, in my life, in me.

#5 LOOK TOWARD THE DAY TO COME - asking where I need God in the day to come.

Full disclosure, I am not a man given to reflection or meditation, attention and focus is a challenge, so I am hoping, praying to accept the challenge of The Examen.

TAKE CARE ALL 🙏



COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

The Communications Director must keep council members informed about council activities. This is especially important for those who don't attend meetings or volunteer for activities.

Last year, **Brother Pat Lavigne started a Contact Team.** The goal was to increase attendance at monthly meetings. He got help from four or five other Knights.

Members had the option to opt out of calls. About 10 chose not to be contacted. The team called the rest to remind them about upcoming meetings.

When I asked Brother Pat about the results, he said:

"Frankly, I am very disappointed! Only one member came to one of the two meetings we called about."

I asked him why. Pat has been a Knight for over 54 years. He helped set up our St. George Council in 1992. He said:

"The Knights give me a way to live out Jesus' teachings. Our council feeds the hungry and clothes the needy. We build fraternity and unity."

I understand some members have health or mobility issues. But does that explain why over half of our members don't participate?

Some said they had 'other things' to do. Others felt they had 'been there, done that.' Even former volunteers and executives didn't bother."

Pat added:

"Our team will make calls again for the May 5th and June 2nd meetings. I hope the officer nominations and elections will improve attendance."

As a new Knight, I've seen how much good our council does with a small group of active members. There's so much more we could achieve if more members got involved.

Why are you a Knight? Are you living up to what that means?

We need your thoughts on how to increase meeting attendance and participation. Can we add anything to the meetings, speakers, or other to make them more interesting?

Please email or call me.

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COUNCIL BANKING

Please help us ensure seamless bank deposits either by:

e-transfers to:
KofC10843@gmail.com

or

make cheques payable to:
Knights of Columbus
10843

LECTURER'S NOTE

I was struck this week with all the turmoil and tensions in our world today. In our digitally connected lives, it's almost impossible to avoid getting dragged down by all that's happening.

So, I decided to take a break. I googled Easter prayers, and I found one that made me step back and realize that even though we may feel despair, God in His glory is ever-present in our lives if we take the time to seek Him out. So, pray the prayer and as you do, reflect on the picture and enjoy the moment. Blessings to you and your family.

Brother Ken

We Are One with the Risen Christ

Lord, we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ. Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sun rises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colors of promise in your word. Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always. And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you!

Amen.

— Author Unknown



WORDS FROM OUR DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Thank you everyone for your hard work this past year!

Through the year, we've supported many important charities, helping to make life a little easier for those in need.



We've also hosted some wonderful community events, most notably the Basketball Free Throw Competition and Family Bowling Night.

All of these would not be possible without the camaraderie of our Brother Knights.

As we look forward to next year, have you considered joining the Executive? Positions are still available for anyone interested in supporting our Chapter.

Peter 4:10-11

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."

Jason

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If you remember, when you see a fellow Knight who is on the list, wish them a happy birthday, or even a belated one!

April

Harry Vergeer	James Cookson
William Sabourin	John Hyland
Rodey McIntyre	Robert Thibert
Leslie Laszlo	Joseph Hartman
Stan Draus	Bruno Porciello
Stuart Woods	Paul Shearon
Gordon Deval	Harold Stewart

May

Brian Galea	Ryan Valiquette
Frank Udovic	Richard Meloche
James McCoomb	Jeff Gray
Stephen Nnorom	Gary Valvasori
Dominic Buttazoni	

June

Tim Clayton	Kevin Barry
Kenneth Schenkel	Jason Howlett
Karl Van Hagen	Mike Dudomaine
Dennis Matthews	Bob Gallant
Steve Cashen	Ralph Fish
Norm Fitzpatrick	Volker Hocke

July

Marc Rochon	Hans van der Walle
Cody Mahood	Larry Hartman
Cy Murphy	Nicholas Corrie
Rev Saleem Amir	Gregory Rumble
Maseh	Dean Bechard
Larry Hamilton	Jerry Dudzic
Michel Beaudoin	

August

Vincent Bezzina	Nicholas Tessel
Dino Jose	Aaron Matthews
Michael Fernando	Mark Hogan
Richard LaRochelle	John Hricina
Marv Quenneville	Ken Walsh
Gary Masters	Ryan Hellsten
Russell Lomas	Gregory Popelas
Arnold Suski	

ON THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis was a beacon of hope and compassion, spreading messages of peace, love and understanding throughout the world. His legacy of humility, social justice and environmental stewardship has left an indelible mark on humanity.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his teachings continue to inspire us to build a better world for all.

Mary Simon



***Awake everyone, the dawn has come
Life is streaming from the sun
A garden blessed, the bird that sings
Nature gives us everything
Awake everyone, the time has come
To mend, to tend our common home
To give our thanks, sow our seeds
Extend the hand to those in need***

- Excerpt from "These Are The Words - From "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word" by Patti Smith

MARIAN RETREAT

Our St. George Knights of Columbus council will host a Marian Retreat at St. George Church on June 21, 2025.

This event is **open to all men in our Springbank Family of Parishes**. Registration instructions will follow shortly. The retreat will also be advertised in the parish bulletin.

This short retreat will include guest speakers, time for reflection, group discussions, lunch and a Mass.

Mark your calendars, we look forward to a full house - this will be a spiritual and devotional opportunity in a fraternal environment. Treat yourselves, honour our Holy Mother, petition her and she will bless you through her Son.

John Nuvoloni
Program Director

UPDATE: OUR 3RD ANNUAL SPRINGBANK CATHOLIC K OF C GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025



Hello Brother Knights!

A well known phrase comes to mind whenever there is work to be done and often times the same people step forward.
"Many Hands Makes Light Work"

This year's golf tournament is no exception. We have been blessed with additional volunteers, but, as always we are looking for more help.

We have been busy contacting our sponsors from the last two years and many have already stepped forward.

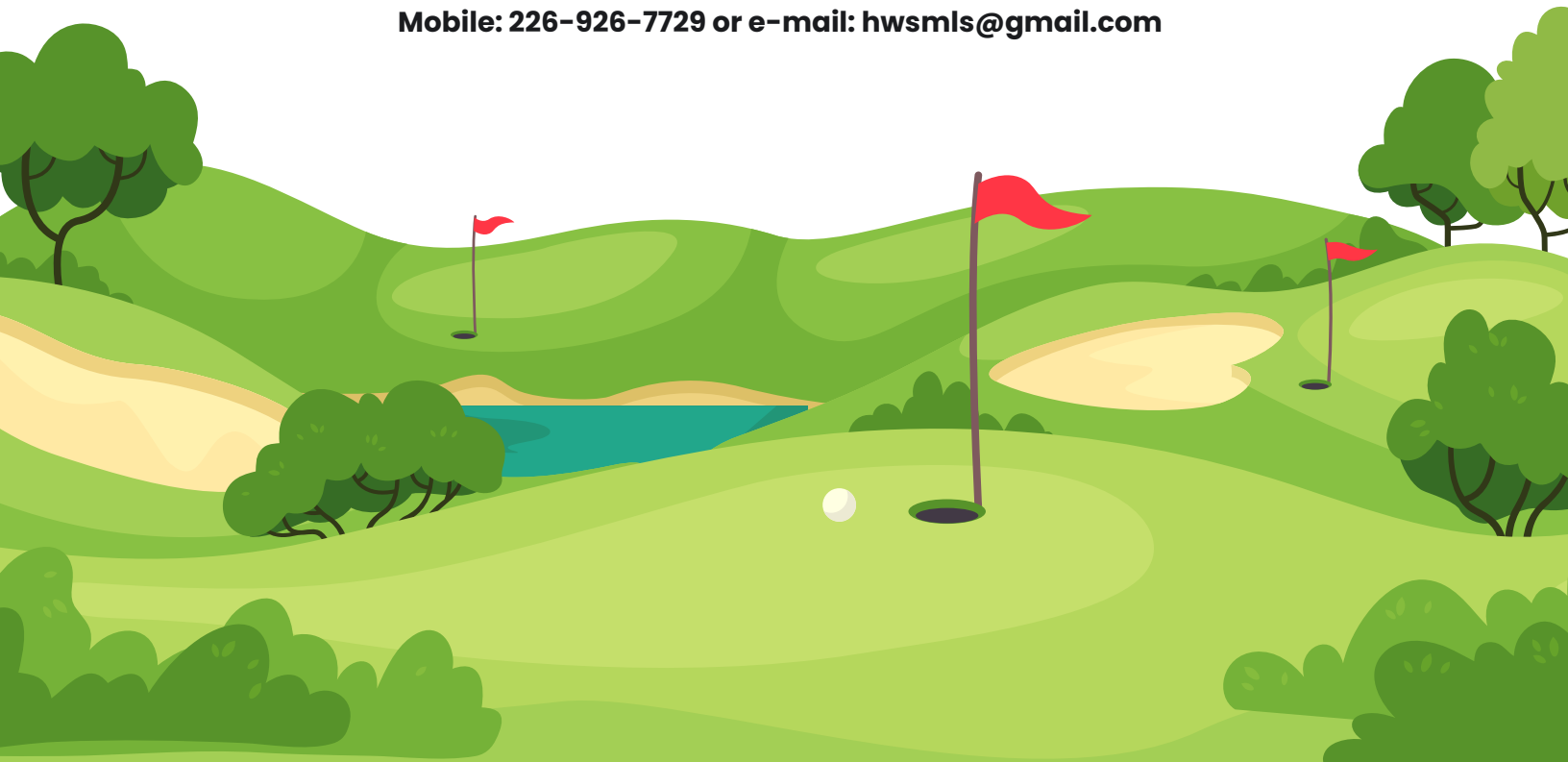
New sponsors including golf hole sponsors, silent auction items and of course charity draw (Passport) prizes are always needed.

Golf season is upon us and any help you or people you know can help with will be greatly appreciated.

Last year our charities split \$30,000+, and this year with your help?

Cheers! Harold

Mobile: 226-926-7729 or e-mail: hwsmls@gmail.com



BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

Here is another good news story to share with you and the community!

Almost three years ago, something special started in our church parking lot. Someone who knew about the Parish outreach program and Ark Aid's work met a few of our Brother Knights. They talked about how Ark Aid needed help to feed hungry, homeless people.

This talk led to the start of a group I call the "Bag Lunch Crew." Brothers Lou and Harold asked Brothers Chuck and Win to join them. Their wives Carol, Mary Lou and Jean and their friend Gertrud (all CWL) joined in to help. Brothers Frank and John were recruited to deliver food to Ark Aid. We can't forget Eileen who helps make sandwiches and does the shopping.

Lou and his team used their connections to get food. They got meat from Remark, bread from Foodland in Komoka, and cookies from Hollandia also in Komoka. At first, the Parish paid for other things like butter, cheese, drinks, and energy bars.

Every second Tuesday morning, the Bag Lunch Crew meets at the church. They make sandwiches and fill reusable bags, donated by Byron Metro, with food and drinks. Frank and John now deliver the bags to St. Joe's Cafe. The same day, at lunch, St. Joe's volunteers give the bags to people in need.

The program started with 100 sandwiches every two weeks as many people needed help. Our Council was approached for funding. The Knights agreed and now pay for the whole program.

Now, Lou and his crew continue to make 100 sandwiches every two weeks!

Thanks to the CWL, the Knights, and kind donors, we can give a healthy lunch for about \$1 per sandwich bag.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and care in this Outreach program!

If you can, recognize and patronize our generous food donors:

Remark - Komoka Foodland - Hollandia - Metro



CWL / KOFC GARAGE SALE

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 10th!** This joint event is the perfect opportunity to clear out those items that have been collecting dust and taking up space. Whether it's that old lamp you've been meaning to part with or those books you've already read twice, your surplus "stuff" can find a new home—and benefit the parish in the process.

Drop-off date: Friday, May 9th

Bonus: You might even find a few treasures to take home on Saturday! Proceeds will be shared equally with the Catholic Women's League (CWL).



KOFC BOTTLE DRIVE

Our semi-annual bottle drive is back on Saturday, May 24th, right after the long weekend. Start collecting your bottles and cans now—every contribution counts! Last fall's drive raised just over \$500, but we know we can do better this time.

Here's how:

- If even two-thirds of our members donate 12 bottles and 12 cans each, that's nearly \$200 raised in no time.
- Want to go above and beyond? Ask two of your neighbours to contribute their stash—together, we could easily surpass last fall's total and hit \$600!

Rain or shine, our team will be ready to collect your donations with smiles and gratitude. Let's make this drive a success!

Thank you in advance for doing your part—your support makes all the difference.

Bob Gallant

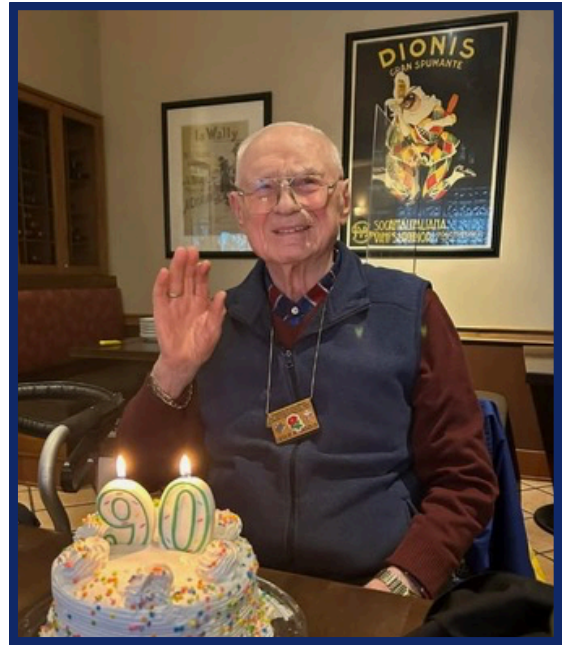


HOPE IN THIS TINY CROSS

BY: LES LASZLO

In the summer of 1953 we were assigned to the Hydrogen Plant of Kazincbarcika, Hungary, for some plumbing work. There we came upon so-called war criminals (political prisoners) who were doing some construction work in the factory. We could not talk to them because that was strictly prohibited.

I saw among them a middle-aged man who wore a crucifix from a rosary suspended on a shoe string around his neck. At first I had thought that he was perhaps a priest or some kind of a missionary among the prisoners.



On a quiet day, during the changing of the guard when the guards could not observe us, I asked him who he was. He quietly told me that he was an army captain who was taken prisoner of war in 1942 by the Russians, at which time the Russian soldiers tore the rosary off his neck and stamped it in the mud. That night, he and two others scraped out the cross, and he wore it ever since; but they could not collect the beads. He had been beaten up by the guards for this many times, but, as he said, "there are more than a hundred of us here, son, whose only hope is in this tiny cross."

He went on to tell me that, between 1945 and 1949, the Russians wanted to release them on more than one occasion, but the Rakosi government (in power in Hungary at the time) would not take them in. Finally they were sent home anyway, but only to become political prisoners in their own country. Thus it had now been eleven years during which they had not heard from their loved ones.

I was deeply shocked by what had happened to him, and asked for their addresses so that I could help, but they refused, for fear I would end up among them. After all this, I could only pray for them and with them.

Not much later, Imre Nagy's government came to power, and they were released. Standing near the buses ready to take them home, I wished them a happy homecoming.

I have kept their memory and the remembrance of the power of the rosary all through the last 50 years. If you have the time, I ask you, too, to pray so that all the more of us should give thanks and implore the Virgin Mary to be our guiding star in these troubled times.

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (APRIL - AUGUST) ST. GEORGE KNIGHTS (10843)

April 8	7:00pm	Executive Meeting	Parish Meeting Room
April 14-16	12pm-6pm	Food Drive for Byron Food Bank	Byron Metro Help needed! 2 for 2hr shifts
April 27	9:00am	Parish Breakfast (Pregnancy & Family Support Centre)	Parish Hall Help needed!
April 28	7:30pm	MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING	PARISH HALL MEAL @ 6PM
May 5	6:00pm	Dinner, Rosary, General Meeting, Slate of Officers	St. George Church
May 3/4 & 10/11		Infant Clothes & Needs with CWL After Masses	Narthex
May 10	5:00pm	CWL Garage Sale (KofC proceeds 50%)	St. George Church Help needed!
May 10	5:00pm	Rose Sunday - London Family & Pregnancy Centre	Narthex Help needed!
May 11	9am & 11am	Rose Sunday - London Family & Pregnancy Centre	Narthex Help needed!
May 13	7:00pm	Officer's Meeting	Parish Meeting Room
May 24	8:00am	KofC Bottle Drive - Joint effort with St. John D KofC	Parish Entrance Help needed!
May 26	7:30pm	MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING & ELECTIONS	PARISH HALL MEAL @ 6PM
June 10	7:00pm	Officer's Meeting	Parish Meeting Room
June 17	9:00am	Church Kitchen Cleanup	Kitchen Help needed!
June 26	TBD	Council Social	Byron Legion
August		SJD & SG KofC Charity Golf Tournament	Help needed!

*Please print and post with your home calendar! You may also receive reminder emails.