



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Yorkton COUNCIL NO. 2031

# *THE WORD*

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December , 2023



## **December 25**



Yorkton Council No. 2031  
St. Gerard 125 Third Ave. North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



Hello, Brother Knights.

As the calendar year winds down and we enjoy the seasons of Advent and Christmas, our Columbian year will reach its halfway point on December 31. I think we should be very pleased with what we have accomplished as a council! I'm confident we can continue this momentum into the new year!

We had another admission degree on November 4. Thank you to the members of the exemplification team. Welcome to our two newest members of our council (and a father and son team): **Christie Antony** and **Patric Christie**.

The council held a Memorial Mass and banquet to honor the memory of our deceased members in conjunction with the CWL on November 8. It was a very nice evening that was well attended. Special thank yous go out to Nick Andrusyk who coordinated the event for the hall and to Adrienne Wonchulanko and team who prepared the delicious turkey dinner that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Another successful brunch was held on November 19 with a good turnout of workers and customers. Thank you to Brother Henry Kweens and team for serving another delicious meal! Our next brunch will be January 14, 2024.

Bingos are going strong and we have quite a few scheduled in the upcoming weeks. Thank you to Brother Gary Colbow for spearheading this activity and to all who come out to help. The schedule will be found in the calendar of activities in this issue.

Thank you to Brother Rejean Houle for taking the lead in setting up the Keep Christ in Christmas sign on November 25.

Thank you to Brother Ted Osicki for managing the council's ticket sales for the State Charitable Appeal. This is an important fundraiser that allows the State Council to sponsor many worthwhile charitable endeavors. Some of the proceeds are also shared with the council based on ticket sales.

Our council contributed a basket for the parish's **Christmas in November** fundraiser. Thank

you to Debbie Hayward for putting together the basket.

Take a moment to check out our council's website: <https://www.kofc-2031.ca/> Thank you to our webmaster Brother Johannes Prost for maintaining this excellent source of information for our council. If you have any ideas for additional content I'm sure Brother Johannes would be glad to hear from you!

Our council is co-sponsoring a Keep Christ in Christmas message on CTV along with the other councils in our district. Keep an eye out for it over the next few weeks.

Some important dates to remember for December include the following:

- We are hosting our annual Christmas party at the Yorkton & District Nursing Home (Melody Manor unit) with Christmas caroling on **Friday December 1 at 2:00 pm**. Carolers (Knights and wives) are welcome to come out and spread Christmas cheer! The council will be providing snacks this year so no need to bring anything other than your voice. A big thank you goes out to George Flunder who will be providing musical accompaniment for the event.
- Our combined planning and general meeting will be held **December 6**.
- The Knights will continue to undertake all of the ministries for one of the weekend masses each month. The next opportunity to do this will be **December 10** at the 11 am mass. Please say yes when Brother Rick Dubois asks for help.
- Our Christmas social will be held on **December 13** in the council chambers. Brother Wayne Exner will provide more details in his report.

As always, thank you to Fr. Antony for his ongoing support. Please keep our ill and deceased Brother Knights in your prayers. St. Joseph, pray for us!

On behalf of my wife Debbie and myself, we wish you every blessing of Christmas. May the light and joy of Jesus' birth be with you all year. Merry Christmas!

Fraternally,  
Keith Hayward GK

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## **Keeping Christ at the Center of Christmas: A Knightly Commitment**



Brothers, while we can see and feel the joyous vibes of this Christmas season and amidst all the bustling festivities, cheerful gatherings, and family reunions, sometimes it's easy for the true meaning of this season to fade into the background and

lose sight of its true meaning. As Knights of Columbus, it is incumbent of us that we uphold the noble mission of ensuring that the heart of Christmas which is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is not overshadowed by the distractions of the glitz and glamour of the holiday season.

Brothers, let this verse be a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)." - Matthew 1:23

Quoting Saint Teresa of Calcutta: "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

The true meaning of Christmas lies not in the glittering lights or lavish decorations and food but in the humble birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. Brother Knights, let us learn from the examples of virtues of the saints and rekindle the true spirit of Christmas within us and within our communities.

Brothers, as true followers of Christ let our homes, our parish, and in our community strive to keep Christ at the center of our celebrations. Whether through acts of charity, prayers, or simply sharing the Gospel message, our commitment to honoring the birth of our Lord Jesus should be the center of it all.

In this modernistic age where the world is ever in need of the Lord's love, let our actions and words become the beacons of His divine love, offering solace, compassion, and goodwill to those around us. Let us not lose focus and constantly be reminded of the reason why God the Father sent forth his only begotten son.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

Brothers, let us purposefully steer away from the distractions and commercialization that often dilute the sacredness of this holy season. Instead, let's heed the wisdom of the Scriptures and the saints, committing ourselves to manifesting Christ's love and presence in all that we do this Christmas.

As Knights of Columbus, let us stand as guardians of this divine truth, ensuring that the significance of Christ's birth remains the guiding light of our celebrations. May our actions echo the eternal message of hope, peace, and joy that Christ's coming brought into the world.

In upholding this cherished tradition, we not only honor the essence of Christmas but also carry forward the legacy of our faith, love, and goodwill that defines our order. Let us rejoice in the birth of our Savior and share this joyous news with all those around us.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Jonathan Rosas - DGK

State Cultural Diversity Chairman

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## **PROGRAMMING**



Brothers,

We are almost at the middle of the Columbian year. So far, we had many activities. We appreciate to have many brothers and their families volunteering and or participating in our activities. Please continue helping.



## Activities for December:

- 1 - Caroling at YDNH – 2.00
- 6 - Combined planning and general meeting – 5.30
- 9 - Bingo 12.00 to 4.00
- 10 - Bingo
- 13 - Christmas Family Social – 6.00
- 16 - Family prayer 7.00
- 22 - Articles for the Word due
- 30 31 - Consecration to Holy Family
- 31 - Bingo 12.00 to 4.00

Have a safe and blessed Christmas.

Fraternally  
Rejean Houle

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## ADVENT



Advent, derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming," is a significant season in the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. It is a time of joyful anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Beyond its role in marking the historical event of Christ's birth, Advent holds a deeper theological significance for Catholics.

The observance of Advent has ancient origins, dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries in Gaul (modern-day France) and Spain. The season was originally a time of penance and fasting, reminiscent of the 40-day Lenten period. However, it gradually evolved into the more joyful and anticipatory season that we recognize today. The First Council of Tours in 567 AD formalized the observance of Advent as a period of preparation for both the celebration of Christ's birth and His second coming. Over time, Advent became a liturgical season marked by various traditions, including the Advent wreath, the Advent calendar, and the Nativity scene, all of which have been integrated into the rich tapestry of Catholic spirituality.

**Hope:** Advent is a season of hope. It serves as a reminder to the faithful that just as the world awaited the first coming of Christ with hope and ex-

pectation, they should eagerly anticipate His second coming. The readings during Advent reflect this theme, drawing from the prophecies in the Old Testament, particularly from Isaiah, that foretold the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah's words, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given," resonate deeply during this season, emphasizing the hope of the promised Saviour.

**Preparation:** Advent calls Catholics to prepare their hearts and minds for the arrival of the Saviour. This preparation involves a recommitment to faith, a turning away from sin, and a renewal of one's relationship with God. The sacrament of reconciliation plays a significant role in this preparation, as Catholics seek to cleanse their souls and make themselves worthy vessels for the reception of Christ.

**Joy:** Although Advent is a time of preparation and penance, it is also marked by joy. The liturgical colour of Advent, violet or blue, reflects this dual nature of the season. The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, is especially joyful, as the Church encourages the faithful to rejoice in anticipation of Christ's coming. The lighting of the Advent candles on the wreath is a visual representation of the increasing light and joy as Christmas approaches.

**Waiting and Patience:** Advent teaches the importance of waiting patiently for God's plan to unfold. The figure of John the Baptist, whose role was to prepare the way for Christ, symbolizes the patient waiting and anticipation that Advent represents. Catholics are reminded that God's timing is perfect, and they should trust in His plan.

Advent is not just a theological concept but a lived experience for believers. It is a spiritual journey that encompasses the past, present, and future of salvation history. Advent encourages the faithful to reflect on the historical birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the ongoing presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the future second coming of Christ at the end of time. This journey is marked by prayer, Scripture reading, acts of charity, and participation in the liturgy.

During Advent, the Liturgy of the Word focuses on the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament, which find their fulfillment in the birth of Jesus Christ. The Gospel readings recount the events leading to the birth of Jesus, including the Annunciation to Mary and the visitation of the shepherds. These readings immerse the faithful in the mystery of

the Incarnation and remind them of the significance of Christ's coming into the world.

Each person's journey through Advent is different and traditions are different. However, through all of this, let us be reminded that the King of Kings humbled Himself as a newborn baby to remind us of the innocence of God's creation and the care and love we are called to share with one another. May this Advent but a journey that truly transforms our hearts.

Steven Boucher,  
Lecturer

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## **“FAITH” REPORT**

These past number of weeks has been very busy for “Faith”.

1. **Altar Server Supper:** The Altar Server Inservice was held September 27th at 5:00 PM. Brother Knights supplied and served supper which included a variety of pizzas, ice cream, and drinks.

2. **Rosary Mondays:** As a dedication to Mother Mary, the Rosary was prayed each Monday in October starting at 5:30 PM. I led the Rosary with five Brother Knights each reciting one decade. Average attendance for the five Mondays was 20 to 30 people.

3. **Rosary Chain:** The annual Rosary Chain was held on October 1st. Those in attendance met on the corner of Gladstone and Broadway. Pro-Life participants gathered and silently prayed the rosary while displaying signs supporting the right to life.

4. **Canada Needs Our Lady:** A prayer group met in the City Center Park on Broadway at noon hour on October 14th. Approximately 20 people attended with half of that number being Brother Knights from both councils.

5. **Monthly Mass Ministry:** New for our council, which will occur on a regular basis, is a monthly Sunday Mass where the K of C brothers will be responsible to serve in each of the ministries. We served at the Saturday 5:00 PM mass October 14th and the Sunday 9:00 AM mass November 12th. The next mass scheduled for the Brothers

is Sunday, December 10th at 11:00 AM. I will be phoning for your participation once again.

6. **Memorial Mass:** This annual mass for deceased members of our K of C Council was held November 8th at 5:30 PM. Brothers served in the various ministries. The mass was followed by supper in the hall.

7. **Rosary Prayer Cards:** Due to amendments in The Creed, I ordered rosary prayer cards which are now available in the foyer and at both entrances. Our Council purchased these cards which were made by St. Joseph's Workers for Life and Family. The cards are free for all parishioners.

8. **Calendars:** The sale of liturgical calendars started the weekend of November 18th. The calendars are five dollars each, and inserted with each calendar is a rosary prayer card as described above. The calendars are for sale until the end of the year.

I have called upon many of you for your service, and I thank you for helping out with the many activities we have had during these past months.

Brother Rick Dubois,  
Faith Coordinator

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## **“LIFE” REPORT**

**Rosary for Life:** The rosary was prayed together October 4th with approximately 30 attending. It is usually held outside around the monument for unborn children, but due to very poor weather, it was held in the church proper.

**Baby Bottle Campaign:** After a two-year absence due to Covid, Options Pregnancy held their annual Baby Bottle Campaign from May to June inclusive. Rather than raising funds in St. Gerard's alone, I approached a variety of churches in Yorkton asking if they would be interested in participating as well. Their response was overwhelming.

The following is a brief rundown of the final figures and a report from Options Pregnancy:

Last year's campaign (2022) raised \$35,000.00. This year the final number is \$52,705.53

Your group in Yorkton raised more than 12.5% of the entire campaign with a total of \$6678.07 from 6 churches.

- St. Gerard's raised \$3389.09 and tied with Regina Apostolic as the largest church contribution for the campaign.
- Yorkton Alliance raised \$991.27
- Heritage Baptist raised \$931.51
- St Mary's raised \$880.10
- Dominion Chapel raised \$286.10
- Sisterhood of St Mark's raised \$200.00

Meetings: I continue to attend the monthly meetings for Parkland Right to Life.

Brother Gregory Dubois,  
Life Coordinator

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## NEW MEMBERS



**Christie Antony/Patricia, Patric Christie/Absey**



**Becoming a Knight**



**Our new brothers and the Degree Team**

## SOCIAL CHAIRMAN REPORT

Brothers, we are about to enter into a most holy season in our liturgical year. God has called us to use the talents that He has given us. It is God's love. We have all used our talents within our families, our communities and our parish. Let us all celebrate together. To celebrate, your council is hosting the annual *Christmas Social*. Bring your wife, bring your family, bring your partner or guest. Your council will say thank you on December 13 at 6.00. There is no charge to you. Please let me know before December 10. Contact numbers are phone/text 306-783-7380 or email [wex13@sasktel.net](mailto:wex13@sasktel.net).

Your humble servant  
Wayne Exner

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Pope Francis was inaugurated on March 19, St. Joseph's feast day, and the Pope's devotion to St. Joseph is extremely strong. The Pope has a statue of the sleeping Joseph, and places notes under the statue at night, listing problems or worries he has, so that Joseph can 'sleep on it' and pray for these intentions.

We know little about Joseph; he does not say one word in the Bible. But we know this: the answer to every life-changing occurrence in Joseph's life came to him in a dream, delivered by an angel. He was assured to take Mary as his wife; warned about the danger of King Herod; warned to take his little family and flee to Egypt, then to return to Israel, and told to go to Galilee instead of Judea. He is a strong man of utter faith and trust in God, an example of dedicated love to God and family. Whatever worries we have, we can ask Joseph to "sleep on it" for us, as we put ourselves in his care.  
St. Joseph, pray for us!



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Ferdinand Molo    | 24 – Gladys Blain     |
| 3 – Jennifer Merkl    | 25 – Carl Okrainetz   |
| 10 – Bryon Godin      | 26 – Audrey Parisloff |
| 11 – Elizabeth Vossen | 27 – Edward Magis     |
| 12 – Alfred Labas     | 28 – Abhilash Mathew  |
| 12 – Lloyd Kaspick    | 28 – Kevin Globa      |
| 15 – Edmund Lang      | 29 – Carol Deters     |
| 18 – Carol Smith      | 31 – Denis Dierker    |
| 19 – Julian Slobodian |                       |



## FROM OUR EDITOR

**To our new members who joined us from Canora.** Our council likes to publish birthdays of members and wives, as well as anniversaries in our monthly newsletter. To accomplish this, I need the following information from each new member: WIFE'S NAME AND BIRTHDAY(M/D), and your WEDDING ANNIVERSARY (D/M/Y). Please e-mail this information to me in confidence. I also need your e-mail address (In confidence), so that I could send "The Word"(in living color) to your computer, saving paper and postage.

Does anyone know the new address of Brothers Ivan Bilsky, Donald Probe or Ernest Dutchak? Their mail seems to return.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 – Rodolfo and Janice Pahilan
- 21 – Daniel and Brenda Dierker
- 21 – Wayne and Tracy Zelinski
- 29 – Debu and Anne Adebola Adewusi

