

The Good Knight

*"In Service to One,
In Service to All"*



Issue 26

May 2025

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Greetings! As we greet the month of May, we continue to celebrate the season of Easter, which ends on the fiftieth day, the Feast of Pentecost (June 8, 2025). May is the month of Mary, and some articles will relate to our devotion to her as the mother of Jesus and as our spiritual mother. Let's not forget to honor our earthly mothers as well.

Thank you for reading *The Good Knight*.

Louis Kloster, Editor

Did You Know ...?

Mary's parents were St. Anne and St. Joachim. Neither is mentioned in Scripture, and we know nothing about them. However, we can assume that Mary had been raised as a devout Jewish woman. It is reasonable to attribute her parents for raising her with values of obedience, faithfulness, and gentleness. With a strong, faith-filled upbringing, Mary was able to say 'yes' to God when the angel Gabriel announced that she would give birth to Jesus.



We celebrate the feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne on July 26 each year. Depicted in the icon to the right, they were Jesus' maternal grandparents.

Important Dates

May 2025



- 4 Cor gathering @ 7 p.m.
- 10 St. Vital Spring Talent Show
- 11 Mothers Day
- 14 K of C Executive Meeting @ 7 p.m.
Feast of St. Matthias (Saint of the Month)
- 18 Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast
- 21 Knights of Columbus General Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Soapbox Derby
- 31 Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Family of the Month

We were pleased to recognize Sid and Angelica Eriavaz as our Family of the Month in April. Sid is one of our most active Knights. His resumé is very long when it comes to the many ways he serves



our parish and our council. Presently, Sid serves as Treasurer of our council. He schedules the volunteers who sell grocery gifts cards as well as the various liturgical ministers for the 5 p.m. Saturday Masses. He serves regularly as an MC at Saturday evening masses. As head of maintenance for our parish, Sid is kept very busy. Presently, he is servicing all the mowers and other equipment that will be needed for lawn care. In August each year, Sid organizes the Knights that serve as parking attendants for the Rural Routes Fair. Sid is also involved in Club Beaumont, which allocates funds to support charitable works in Beaumont. We are blessed by his good humor, his good nature, and his good-heartedness.

Angelica is also a faithful parishioner and, what we call, a 'Lady of a Knight'. She frequently helps with pancake breakfasts. Thank you, Angelica and Sid for your many and varied contributions to the well-being of our parish community.

The Good Knight

A Look at the Lord's Prayer

This year, we are examining the Lord's Prayer more closely, so as to discover its rich meaning. The next phrase is:



And lead us not into temptation

As a child, we might have been tempted to take a cookie without permission or to tell a lie to save our self from consequences. As teenagers, it's difficult to resist the temptation to try alcohol or

drugs. As adults we become preoccupied with making money, buying material things, gaining power, etc. Regardless of our age, we are faced with many temptations. There is a constant struggle between light and darkness, right and wrong, vice and virtue. Even Jesus was tested by the devil in the desert. There is the constant threat of evil in our present day too.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say, "Lead us not into temptation," which seems to imply that God would actually do such a thing. He simply wouldn't. Contrary to the wording, we do not believe that God would lead us into temptation. In the letter of St. James, the author clarifies this, stating, "No one experiencing temptation should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one. Rather, each person is tempted when lured and enticed by his desire" (James 1: 13 – 14). In the Lord's Prayer we pray, rather, that God would not let us be overcome with temptation when we are enticed. We pray that God would not allow us to take the path that leads to sin.

In the same passage, James refers to God as the "Father of Lights" (James 1:17). This is a very appropriate name for God, Who wants to illuminate our path and lead us away from the darkness of sin and into the light of salvation.

In one of his daily reflections, biblical scholar Tim Gray of the Augustine Institute encourages us to resist feeding our negative desires and to temper our passion and "strangle that desire". If not, we are easily overpowered by this desire and become enslaved by sin. A desire gratified will grow. When faced with trial or temptation, one must 'nip it in the bud'. A good gardener knows that it is best to pick weeds while they are young and shallow-rooted and before they go to seed and spread. Uncontrolled desires and temptations are like unattended weeds.

Yet, temptation is necessary in our lives. We *can* choose not to give in to our desires and, if we do succumb to temptation, we can learn from our mistakes. As we learn to exercise self-control and self-discipline, we develop our conscience. We build character and gain the strength necessary to avoid sin in the future. Of course we cannot resist temptation without help from the Holy Spirit, who gives us wisdom and strength.

"Do Whatever He Tells You."

These are the words that Mary speaks at the wedding feast in Cana, when she addresses the servants (John 2: 1 – 12). This is also her message for each of us, the Church, and the world:

Do whatever Jesus asks.

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. We were pleased to have 70 – 80 people join the prayer walk. Once again, 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 for Jesus.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Annual Highway Clean-Up

On Saturday, May 3, the Knights of Columbus will be picking litter in the ditches on a ten-kilometer stretch of Highway 21. The Department of Transportation pays \$100 per kilometer to all organizations that participate in the annual highway clean-up. Therefore, this is a fundraiser for our council and the first year that we are involved. (In September, our council volunteers to clean a three km stretch of Highway 814.)

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 24, 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 Vincent Coulombe at voyageurvincent@gmail.com.

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. Applications forms and additional information are at the back of church. They are also available on the parish website.

The Good Knight



Knight of the Month

At our K of C executive meeting on April 9, Fr. Les was selected as our Knight of the Month. He passed away three days later. With great sadness and love, we honor him posthumously.

Fr. Les served as our pastor for two years and provided important leadership and inspiration. Out of interest and with the intention of providing pastoral support, he attended

as many meetings as he could, whether they were Knights of Columbus or CWL meetings, Confirmation classes, or RCIA sessions. The month of April, with the various RCIA scrutinies and the many significant liturgies during Holy Week, was going to be a very busy one for Fr. Les. The Knights wanted to recognize his hard work and his dedication to St. Vital Parish. Fr. Les was highly organized and meticulous in his work, always striving for meaningful liturgies that would truly give glory to God and properly lead the congregation in prayer. His homilies, delivered without notes, were always captivating and compelling. Fr. Les knew that communication was critical for the sake of a well-run and vibrant parish. Somehow he diligently tended to scores of emails and phone calls every day.

As much as Fr. Les was a careful planner and attentive administrator, his love was for the people he served. It was evident that, wherever Fr. Les served in central Alberta, he established strong and lasting friendships. Once Fr. Les knew your name, he remembered it. It was important to him to visit parishioners in need, especially the sick, whether they be at home, in a seniors' home, or in the hospital. He especially had a love for children; thus, he never lacked for hugs.

During his two years at St. Vital, Fr. Les brought new life to our parish and won the hearts and the respect of everyone. He was quick to express gratitude for the contributions made by individuals and groups in the parish. A true shepherd he was. He loved to be with his flock and, as Pope Francis would say, 'with the smell of the sheep'. Fr. Les was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by all those who knew him. He was a 'good and faithful servant of the Lord. May he now enjoy the reward of a race well-run, resting in the loving arms of God, for ever.

Birthdays & Anniversaries in May

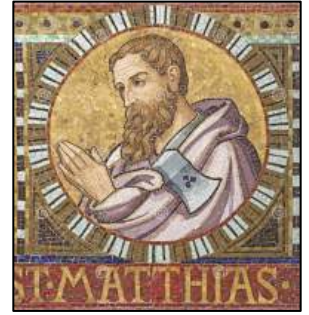
We send blessings to the following Knights who are celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries this month:

- May 10 Victor Hinse
- May 12 Paul Weisenberger
- May 15 Tuyen Nguyen
- May 15 Thomas Ashmore
- May 17 Dan Chalifoux & Dale Coté
- May 16 Jam Abello
- May 20 Andre Charbonneau
- May 24 Mark Pickup
- May 24 Patrick Stack
- May 27 John & Donita Kloster
- May 28 Jean-Pierre Lefebvre
- May 31 Bryan Sosnowski



Saint of the Month St. Matthias

Remember Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples. Judas betrayed Jesus and led the soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested. In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that, at Peter's suggestion, another person was chosen to replace Judas after the resurrection of Jesus. (Like the twelve tribes of Israel, the Twelve symbolized the complete family of God.)



Scripture tells us how this twelfth apostle was chosen:

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles (Acts 1: 23 – 26).

This is the only time that Matthias is mentioned in the Scriptures; thus we know little about him. What we do know is that Matthias, whose name means 'gift of God', was with the disciples from the time that Jesus was baptized to the time of Jesus' resurrection. He witnessed all that Jesus had done. Matthias joined the other apostles in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

There are a number of legends and stories about this saint. One tradition holds that he preached in Judea and later in Ethiopia and was eventually martyred for his faith. Some claim that his remains are in the Abbey of St. Matthias in the German town of Trier. His feast day is May 14.

The Good of the Order

Every month the Knights pray for the sick or recently deceased 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 pray for:

- Michael Busu Dementia
- Anne Brown Stroke recovery
- Wilbur Collin Heart condition
- Roland Comire
- Danny Deceased (Suicide)
- Fr. Les Drewicki Deceased
- Madeline Elder Elderly (97 years old)
- Rollande Gosselin Cancer Concerns
- Irene Hickey Stage 4 liver cancer
- Everett Hoffarth Sick
- Joe Lauer Knee surgery
- Jean-Pierre Lefebvre Cancer concern
- Doris Lytle
- Colleen Mahe recovery from broken wrist; knee surgery in May
- Rick Martin Deceased
- Albertine Porter Cancer, stroke recovery
- Vern Reichert Prostate cancer
- Larry Rowan Cancer, dementia
- Deborah Semenak emphysema
- John Stretch Toe amputation
- Robert Weisenberger Stroke and heart attack

The Good Knight

Symbols of Our Faith

This year, each issue of *The Good Knight* will present a different symbol of our faith and its significance.

Rose

This month, which is the month of Mary, we recognize the rose as a Christian symbol. Like all flowers, the rose is a symbol of beauty, love and perfection. The rose is a delight to the eye, and people enjoy its fragrance. The beauty and perfection of the rose give us a glimpse of the beauty and perfection of heaven.



While the rose has significance to the Christian Church today, it is not mentioned in the New Testament. It became popularized in the Middle Ages, appearing in the form of the rose windows – circular stained glass windows – that adorn Gothic churches. Jesus was often featured in the middle, surrounded by saints and other figures illustrating the history of salvation. In the rose window below, Mary is depicted in the center.



The rose, considered the 'queen of flowers', is closely connected with Mary, our heavenly queen. In fact, the word 'rosary' means a 'circle or garland of roses'. There is a legend that, 800 years ago, St. Dominic was reciting Hail Marys.

Mary appeared to him and was seen taking rosebuds from his lips as he prayed. She wove them into a garland and placed the garland upon her head.

This prayer speaks of the significance of the rose in our Christian tradition:

May God look with favor upon our world, the rose he created, that it may more and more expand its petals and so glorify him, our Creator and Father, in imitation of the rose of Nazareth, Mary, the Servant of the Lord. Amen.

Have You Heard This One?

A driver tucked a note under her windshield wiper and dashed off:

"I've circled the block for 20 minutes. I'm late for an appointment, and if I don't park here I'll lose my job. Forgive us our trespasses."

Returning, she came back only to find a parking ticket and this note:

"I've circled the block for 20 years, and if I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Word of the Month:

In order to communicate our faith to others, and in order to be confident witnesses of the faith, we need to develop a certain vocabulary ... a faith vocabulary. Each month we will dissect and investigate one faith-related word.

religion

The etymology of the word is uncertain. Some say it comes from the Latin *religio*, which means 'respect for what is sacred; reverence for the gods'. Some modern scholars say that it derives from the word *ligare*, meaning "to bind or connect." In this case, religion refers to the organized means by which a group of people reconnects with God.

For us as Christians, *religion* refers to the beliefs and practices followed by those committed to the Gospel of Jesus and full participation in the life of the Church. The first duty of a religious person is to worship and serve God alone.

Congratulations are in Order!

We are proud to announce that one of our youth has received a prestigious award. In January, Elisabeth Pueschel participated in the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest that was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Her essay was passed on to Supreme Council, where it was judged with 400 other essays at the international level and deemed to be the best. At the annual Alberta-NWT State Convention held in Edmonton on April 26, Elisabeth received a \$300.00 cash prize and well-deserved praise. She was invited to read her essay aloud at the awards banquet.



Pictured with her is Bro. Louis Kloster, who received the Knight of the Year award at the State level.

The Color *Blue* & the Virgin Mary



While Mary does not have an official color, she is often depicted wearing blue and white garments. White supposedly represents her purity and virginity; blue is the color of the sky and is associated with an empress.

This color is fitting for Mary, who is crowned the Queen of Heaven. Mary's association with dark blue dates back to around 500 A.D. In medieval times, the color blue was derived from lapis lazuli, a stone even more valuable than gold.

Red, the color of royalty and of passion, has also been a prominent color for Mary, mainly in Eastern iconography.