



Knights of Columbus

April 2025 Newsletter

ST. PETER'S PARISH COUNCIL 13404, 511 CHEAPSIDE STREET, LONDON, ONTARIO, N5Y 3X5

Grand Knight's Comments: Joe Sales



I hope and pray your Lenten journey is going well. It is hard to believe Holy Week is not far off from now.

During the month of April, the Church dedicates the month to the Blessed Sacrament. It is a great time to remember our first holy communion and how each time we receive the body and blood of Christ, it is the real presence of Christ. It is one of the many great mysteries of our faith.

I invite you to check out the Blessed Sacrament Prayer Book by Fr Lasance. You can find this online through Loreto Publications (LoretoPubs.org) or other online stores. I highly recommend this prayer book.

Last month, On March 22nd, Brother John Bulsza and I took part in the **fourth degree exemplification**. We are now Sir Knights. It was an interesting and exciting moment in our journey with the Knights of Columbus. It was a proud moment learning about our country and our faith and the connection between the two. I encourage brothers who are in the third degree to consider taking part in the fourth degree exemplification when an opportunity comes up.



(4th Degree Emblem)

This month, I invite and encourage you to take part in events happening within our council and parish. It's important that we continue to be a presence among our community.

One final thing. As our fraternal year comes to an end this June, I invite you to start thinking and praying on whether or not you'd like to serve on the executive for the next fraternal year.



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Matt's Musings – The Election

There hasn't been much to muse about lately that doesn't involve politics. Among other things, Canada has a Federal election in roughly three weeks.

We're constantly reminded that it is our civic duty to vote. Fair enough, but as Catholics and, especially as Knights, is there any more to it than showing up and marking your ballot?



To answer my musings, I began my research with the **Catechism of the Catholic Church. Paragraph 2240 sets out that it is morally obligatory for Catholics to exercise the right to vote.**

Okay, so I have a civic duty to vote and the Church teaches us that I have to vote. Is there more than that? Can I just vote however I feel? The same way my neighbour or co-worker is?

As I continued reading, it turns out that there is more to it than that. Paragraph 2242 sets out that Catholics must obey God rather than men.

Ok, but how do I decide which candidate to vote for? Everyone in the staff room says X is the candidate to vote for. Should I just do what everyone else is doing? So, I kept researching.



Father Stephen Torracco in an article for EWTN very firmly addresses many issues that Catholic voters face at the ballot box. First, he says that Catholics must vote their conscience, but it has to be a properly formed conscience in harmony with natural moral law correctly informed and normed by the teaching of the Church's Magisterium. This is NOT the same as our opinions and feelings unless

those opinions and feelings are properly formed.

Father Torracco then gets more specific and states that it is NOT morally permissible to vote for a candidate who holds a position contrary to natural moral law and he gives as an example a candidate who is pro-abortion. Father Torracco makes it clear that regardless of your feelings or opinions or the fact that you feel this candidate might be the superior candidate on other issues, your correctly informed conscience tells you it is NOT morally permissible to vote for this



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candidate. **Father Torracco says this is non-negotiable; otherwise we would be an accomplice in the moral evil at issue.**

Father Torracco dismisses those candidates who say they are personally opposed to abortion but have to vote for it for whatever reason (party policy, expedience etc.) saying that they are either fooling themselves or trying to fool us. He says that carrying out an evil action such as voting for **abortion is an immoral act**. Campaign Life Coalition has a searchable website that sets out the candidates in each riding that they deem supportable based on the responses received to a questionnaire they send out.

Of course, while abortion may be the single most important issue of our lifetimes, other issues for Catholics and Knights need to come into play. St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington, Texas put together a **"Catholic Voter's Guide"**. I found it helpful. In it, they list **Five Non-Negotiable Issues, with Abortion being number 1, followed by Euthanasia, Embryonic Stem Cell Research, Human Cloning and Homosexual "Marriage"**.

It turns out the Catholic voter can't just do what everyone else is doing and will need to spend much time researching the issues, Church teaching and correctly forming their conscience before voting. It is not possible to simply show up and vote.

Lastly, **Bishop William McGratton**, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, as quoted in the Catholic Register, **states that the key to discernment is praying to the Holy Spirit for guidance and he suggests saying the Lord's Prayer before you vote.**



I haven't provided any footnotes for any of my references as these are musings, not an academic paper but if anyone is interested in any of the sources and can't find them on a Google search, please email me at matthewgerardduffy@gmail.com and I can assist

Off to research the candidates in my riding....

Spiritual Talk

by Fr. James Prins



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Topic: Jesus, the Bridegroom of the Church

How Jesus unites the Church to himself through his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Date: Saturday April 12, 2025

Time: 11 am to 12 noon

Cost: Free

Who: Knights of Columbus and their spouses are welcome

Where: St. Michael's Parish Hall



*** a complimentary lunch will be served. A selection of different pizzas, pop, and water. Cost is free. Please advise if any dietary considerations.

NOTE: Details about our upcoming Spiritual Talk by Fr. James. **The venue has changed from the JPll room to the Parish Hall.**



*Remember in your prayers
those who are ill and pray
for the repose of the
deceased souls*