THE ECHO

Kitchener
Knights of Columbus®
Father Funcken Council No. 1504

797 Guelph Street – Kitchener, ON – N2H 5Z2 – 519.893.1504 www.kitchenerkofc.ca

December 2026



Grand Knight's Message



Dear Brother Knights,

As we approach the end of another year, I reflect with tremendous pride on all that we have accomplished together as a Council.

We have surpassed our membership growth goals, welcoming new Brothers who bring fresh energy and enthusiasm. Our fundraising efforts have also enjoyed tremendous success, particularly the KW Trivia Challenge and our participation in the Royal Medieval Faire. These achievements reflect the dedication and generosity of our many volunteers.

Beyond these successes, what stands out most is the spirit of fraternity that continues to strengthen our Council. Through working together and serving our community, we truly live the principles of our Order.

As Christmas approaches, I hope we can all slow down, enjoy precious time with family and friends, and count the many blessings in our lives. Let us also remember those facing difficulties or spending Christmas without a loved one.

May the joy of Christ's birth fill your homes with peace, love, and hope.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

GK… Mario

Our Chaplain's Christmas Message



"*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; ... and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*"

As we hear words during the first reading of the Mass of Christmas during the Night, I hope we will all pause during the busyness of the Christmas season to contemplate the true meaning of Christmas once again this year.

Of the titles of the newborn child in the manger that we hear in our first reading, the one that seems the most relevant for our time is: "Prince of Peace." Because the world is anything but at peace today.

But then again, the world wasn't at peace during the first Christmas either. The "*Pax Romana*" - the "Roman Peace", a 200 year "golden age" when the Roman Empire reached its greatest size after eliminating all serious military rivals - was more of a propaganda piece coined by the Roman statesman Seneca the Younger, than a true peace. And it certainly wasn't peaceful for the Jewish people living under harsh Roman occupation among whom Jesus was born.

And yet the title is true, and it remains true today as it was on that first Christmas. True peace cannot be imposed by military might, it can only come about by a change of heart. And a true change of heart cannot come about in ourselves - and even less so in "those people" we think could really use one - by our own efforts. And this is why the angels say to the shepherds in the Gospel of the Mass of Christmas during the Night:

"...to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour;"

Salvation is not something we do for ourselves. A change of heart is not something we do for ourselves. And so, the Prince of Peace arrived on earth - not with an army of angels - but in the helplessness of a homeless child. If we open our hearts to him, he will teach us how to be different, and he will make us instruments of his peace.

May the child in the manger bless you and your families this Christmas with his peace.

Vivat Jesus,

Fr. Raphael Ma, C.R.
Chaplain, Council 1504

Key Events

Euchre Tournaments

Join us on Saturday, Jan 24
Columbus House - The Back Deck
Details at: **EUCHRE**
Register: whithusk1@gmail.com

Santa and Friends will be at the annual **Children's Christmas Party,** Sunday December 13, 1-3 PM. at St. Francis of Assisi parish hall. Members' children & grandchildren welcome. $5/child donation requested (Cash or eTransfer to: Treasurer1504@gmail.com). Register No. of adults with children's name, age, gender at: sjconstant7@hotmail.com

Kitchener K of C Council Bylaws



Our Council Bylaws have been formally adopted, establishing guidelines for operations and finances. Developed with input from members and Past Grand Knights, they formalize our established practices and procedures.

Final document: in Member login section: **BYLAWS**



From the Desk of our DGK



As we celebrate Christmas and welcome a New Year, I am reminded of what makes our Council special — the generosity, friendship, and willingness of our Brothers to answer the call whenever help is needed.

This past year has brought opportunities to serve, strengthen friendships, and welcome new members into our fraternity. To those who have recently joined us, thank you for embracing the spirit of the Knights of Columbus and becoming actively involved. Your participation and enthusiasm help ensure a bright future for our Council.

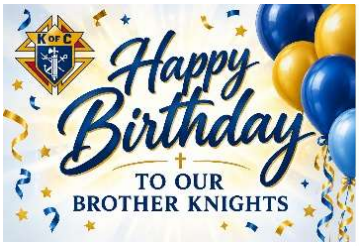
I encourage all members, new and longstanding, to continue sharing their talents, supporting our activities, and enjoying the fellowship that makes our Council such a welcoming community.

Christmas reminds us that the greatest gifts are those we give of ourselves — our time, compassion, and kindness toward others. May we carry that spirit of giving into the coming year, particularly in supporting those less fortunate in our community.

To my Brother Knights and your families, may this Christmas bring joy, peace, and renewed faith.

Merry Christmas and Vivat Jesus!

Patrick Olinski, Deputy Grand Knight



William Barrett
Justin Brule
Anthony Collins
Wayne Curry
Leonn De Paula Ledoux
Fernando De Sousa
Gerard Kelly
David Lang
Bernard Logel
David Luft
Noel Martel
Rev Patrick Mc Kelvie
Christopher Nwanya
Frank Nyland
Noel Pilon
Nick Roehrig
Douglas Sowa
Gerard Stockie
Tyler Summersgill
Rijo Sunny
Dan Tinnerello
Clarence Trebinskie
Jelson Varghese
Henry Walser
Dillon Zavier

ToastyToes Waterloo Region – Bringing Warmth to Those in Need

When dropping off donations at Columbus House for our Christmas Food Appeal please consider donating $2 to ToastyToes.

Founded in 2013, ToastyToes Waterloo Region provides warm socks to individuals experiencing homelessness or financial hardship.

Having distributed over 130,000 pairs, the initiative now raises funds through the Waterloo Region Community Foundation, enabling local shelters and social service agencies to purchase socks for those in need.

With more than $250,000 raised, this remarkable community initiative continues to make a meaningful difference, providing warmth, comfort and dignity to vulnerable residents throughout Waterloo Region, especially during the cold winter months.

On-going Committees

- Charities
- Bingo
- Website
- The Echo
- Roses for Life
- Parish Liaison
- CKCI Liaison
- Communications & Marketing
- Recruitment / Retainment
- Our Everyday Hero's (OEH)
- Euchre Tournament
- Columbus House Social
- Exemplification team
- Rosary (Pre-Gen'l meeting)
- 4th Degree Liaison

Our Catholic Calendar

December 2026

3 St. Francis Xavier
4 St. John Damascene
6 Second Sunday of Advent
7 St. Ambrose - Bishop & Doctor of the Church
8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9 St. Juan Diego
10 Our Lady of Loreto
11 St. Damasus I - Pope
12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
14 St. John of the Cross - Priest & Doctor
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
21 St. Peter Canisius
23 St. John of Kanty
24 Christmas Eve
25 Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day
26 St. Stephen - First Martyr
27 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
28 Holy Innocents - Martyrs
29 St. Thomas Becket - Bishop & Martyr
31 St. Sylvester I - Pope



Council No. 19000, recently chartered in Spain, highlights the Knights of Columbus' remarkable worldwide growth. With over 2.2 million members, 105,000 new Knights welcomed this past year, and nearly 17,000 councils, the Order continues strengthening Catholic faith and brotherhood. *Columbia Magazine, Oct. p.10*

Council Events – Calendar

December 5/6 – Parish Christmas Craft Sales
December 13 – Children's Christmas Party
January 1 – CKCI New Year's Day Levee
February 6 – Basketball Free Throw

From the Corporation

Columbus Kitchener Co-operative Inc.
Serving the Kitchener Knights of Columbus®

It's almost a wrap, with the Fighting Irish having made a great attempt through the year. Playoffs could go into January. It has been a busy year of events with the monthly Corp events, the watch parties and various other get togethers. All of which have required precious volunteers to make these events possible. The dedication of our directors can't be overlooked.

All members are welcome to join us on our annual New Years Day Levee, Friday, January 1, drop in from1:00 – 4:00PM. Refreshments and snacks will be on hand. If you haven't been to Columbus House for a while, or are new to Council, this is a great opportunity to socialize with your brother Knights and catch up on all the "happenings" of Council, the Executive, and the Corporation.

We'll be happy to collect your 2026 membership dues if you have not yet submitted payment.
For schedules, updates and event reports, visit our Webpage or EVENTS Calendar.
Next CKCI Meetings: Monday, January 25, at 7:00 PM.

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Three Kings Day, or Epiphany, celebrated around the world, particularly in Spain, Mexico, Latin America and parts of Europe January 6, commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem and vary in their celebrations. Traditions include exchanging gifts, family gatherings, church services, parades featuring the Three Kings, and sharing a special cake or bread called Rosca de Reyes. Following a star, they presented three symbolic gifts: **gold**, representing Christ's kingship; **frankincense**, His divinity; and **myrrh**, foreshadowing His suffering and death.

For Catholics, Epiphany symbolizes Jesus Christ's revelation as Saviour of all nations, represented by the Wise Men. In Canada, Epiphany is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and 8. In 2027, it falls on January 3.

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." — Psalm 72:11

Congratulations to Bishop Wayne Lobsinger on his recent appointment as Ordinary Bishop of Peterborough. Although we will miss your presence within our diocese, we are overjoyed that a Chaplain of the Kitchener Knights has ascended to this deserved role. Our prayers are with you for this next chapter of your life.

WE ARE BROTHERS - WE ARE KNIGHTS - WE ARE ONE

Website Sponsor

Value Sponsor – website advertising space is available for members owning or representing commercial enterprises. Your ad will help offset our upkeep costs and help to grow your business.

Contact: Editor@kitchenerkofc.ca

CKCI Facility Rentals

The **Columbus House, JNM Columbus Centre** and the **Columbus Grounds** are available for Member Events.

Learn more at FACILITIES

Legacies & Bequests

- With Charity guiding our Knights of Columbus, sharing your effort, time, talents and alms remain essential to our Catholic faith. Consider one lasting charitable act by including Kitchener Knights of Columbus in your will.

Tempus Fugit – Memento Mori



General Meeting – Dec. 15

Members are invited to our monthly General meeting – 7:30PM (3rd Tue) at the Jack Nolan Memorial Columbus Centre (behind Columbus House). Rosary starts at 6:45PM – Columbus House Meeting Room. Good of the Order "50" & Pot of Gold" draws for the benefit of those in attendance.

Living Faith Through Action

Sharing your faith with like minded men while advocating for those in need.
It's never been easier to join.
JOIN FORM

Ideas for The Echo?

Let us know at TheEcho@kitchenerkofc.ca

Submission deadline for next edition: Wednesday – Dec. 16

Please pray for the intentions of our brother Knights

Click to view Sick and In Distress – Members' Page

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Charity-Unity-Fraternity-Patriotism
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