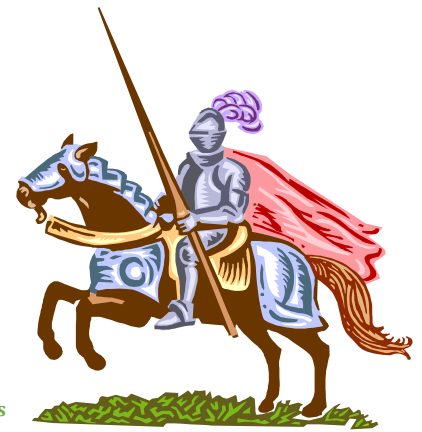


# THE Paladin



Knights of Columbus Arden/Carmichael Council 4970 District 9 – Division 4  
Serving Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. John the Evangelist Parishes



DECEMBER 2023

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## Advent Always Makes Me Feel Like a Kid

*By Will Friesen, Grand Knight*

Most of the Christmas traditions that I celebrated with my children began with my childhood. My dad was not raised Catholic so my mom was the one with the traditions. I grew up outside of town in the countryside. That meant that I was not influenced by what my friends were doing at Christmas.

As a family, we always traveled to a tree farm with a saw to harvest our own Christmas tree. My siblings and I were always ready to quickly settle on a tree, but Dad insisted that we keep looking for a better one. After he found “the one”, we took turns sawing. Any one of us could have completed the task, but dad insisted that we each get a turn. We would tie the tree to the top of the car and drive home slowly. It might have been at the same speed as going there but it took forever because we were ready to decorate.

My mother believed that the Christmas season was not the Advent season, so we would often wait for Christmas eve to decorate the Christmas tree. First Dad would string the lights, then Mom would do the fragile bulbs. Waiting was hard. Finally, the kids would get to add the tinsel. After decorating the tree, wrapped gifts would magically appear to be placed under the tree.

After the tree and dinner, Mom would read a book called the Shiniest Star.

In addition to decorating the tree, one more Christmas Eve tradition was that my parents would allow us to open one gift just before Midnight Mass, but only if we were willing to commit to going to Midnight Mass. My siblings and I were often too excited to take the naps that Mom suggested. She would gather us around 10:30 to get ready. As I think back, the gifts that we were allowed to open were handpicked by mom and were often a new winter coat that we would wear for the first time to midnight mass. I was still so excited to open the one gift early. We would go early to mass to get good seats and listen to the choir.

### December Calendar

#### December 3

Breakfast with Santa, 8:30 a.m., SI

#### December 5

Rosary, 7 p.m., Zoom

#### December 8

Immaculate Conception

#### December 10

Christmas Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., OLA

#### December 12

Annual Christmas Party and  
Business Meeting, 6 p.m.,  
St. John's Hall, OLA

#### December 19

Rosary, 7 p.m., Zoom

#### December 25

Christmas

**Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!**

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**Continued from Page 2- Advent**

I remember the smells and singing and the coats of the people in front of us, but not much of the celebration of the mass.

Running up to Christmas day, Joseph and Mary figurines would be moved daily, closer to the creche. They started in the kitchen and moved from the counter to the table to the hall table and eventually to the fireplace where the creche waited. Shepherds would come from another part of the house and progress in a similar way. Sometime later the Three Kings would start their journey. On Christmas day, the shepherds and the blessed family arrived. Someone, usually my baby brother, would get to lay Jesus in the manger. The kings were not yet there.

I remember that Mom kept Christmas alive for a few more days as the kings continued to get moved until their arrival on the Feast of the Epiphany.

I have fond memories of a few of the gifts that Santa brought, but my most vivid memories are of the steps leading up to Christmas.

When my wife and I tried to pass on some of those traditions, practical considerations seemed to get in the way. We put up the tree and lights earlier than my parents, because I wanted the house to look as festive as the rest of the houses in the neighborhood. That meant that we put up the tree and put lights on the house after Thanksgiving.

I am sorry to admit that as a father I only took my kids to midnight mass twice. I wonder if the experience was the same for them.

Whether you keep the traditions passed down by your parents or start your own, just remember to keep the miracle of Christmas alive. Every year people become extra kind and extra generous at Christmas time. Share that miracle of Christmas because that one matters.

Merry Christmas!

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## Wishing PGK Gene Gobbo a Happy 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday!

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## 2023 Annual ID Drive Recap

By Joe Romanazzi, Past Grand Knight, ID Drive Chairman

The Lord says, "Offer Me your best time and talent and treasure. "



SJE

OLA

SI

Emigh Hardware

We are counting our blessings with a grateful heart and giving thanks for those who have made it possible for Council 4970 to continue our mission of helping to send intellectually disabled campers to Camp ReCreation each summer. Our annual ID Drive (*aka our Tootsie Roll Drive*) was a spectacular success again this year with thousands of dollars in donations received. Here are our Council results for 2023:

**St. John the Evangelist Parish (SJE): \$1,547.19**

**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish (OLA): \$2,105.71**

**St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish (SI): \$2,189.51**

**Emigh Hardware: \$1,850.94**

**Mail-ins received from Brother Knights, Lady Knights and Others: \$10,265.26**

**TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$17,958.61**

Conducting an annual council ID Drive the size of ours requires many helpers offering the Lord their best time and talent and treasure. I want to thank my wife, Lady Knight Liz, for her overall assistance and significant clerical support. A BIG thank you goes to PGK Peter Mendenhall, a member of Council 15693, for demonstrating his fraternal spirit by arranging for 25 students from Mrs. Casagrande's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School to work alongside our Brother Knights at Emigh Hardware. A record \$1,850.94 was collected from patrons visiting the store.

In addition to the students from Presentation School, we deployed another of our Council's secret ID Drive weapons—the children of some of our members. These included Tim Spinelli's three sons Lucas, Robbie and Andy; Andrew Cuhna's four children, Juliette, Felicity, Rosalie and Russell; Mike Fazio's daughter Gabriella; and four 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from SJE School, Ashlyn Pratt, Trey Newburn, Alex Blair and Jack Rojas. Tell me, how many warm-hearted donors do you think can resist contributing to cute kids holding donation cans and handing out free *Tootsies* while wearing ID Drive aprons that almost reach to the floor? Thank you kids for helping the Knights collect lots of money for a great cause.

Many thanks to our Council 4970 volunteers, Brothers Len Zerilli, Gene Gobbo, Bill Davis, Sid Tarango III, Ken Macdonald, Peter Kilkeny, Don Harmata, Will Friesen, Michael Langer, Frank Consulo, Mike Fazio, Aaron Stroh, Andrew Cuhna, Steve Hall, Shawn Herrick, Mike Dougherty,

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**Continued from Page 3- Annual ID Drive Recap**

Bobbie Bello, Rich Romo, Gary Mello, Dan Aseltine and Josh Figueroa. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize and thank our Treasurer Steve Millner who made numerous trips to the bank to make our donation deposits; and our Financial Secretary Deacon Larry Niekamp who posted our ID Drive events and photos timely on our website. I also want to give thanks to the numerous Brother Knights, Lady Knights, clergy, and parishioners from SJE, OLA, and SI who supported our ID Drives and contributed their money to send a whole bunch of happy campers with special needs to Camp ReCreation next summer.

My Brothers, as ambassadors of Christ, we give Him our thanks and praise for His abundant blessings on us, our families, the work of our Great Council for 63 years and for filling our hearts with over-flowing joy. May the Lord continue to lavish His blessings on the intellectual disabled and their families. And may He continue to always lead us with His love and help so that we can fulfill the good works He sets out for us to accomplish.

**Some of our volunteer helpers collecting donations are pictured on page 3 and identified below.**

**St. John the Evangelist: (L-R) Lucas, Robbie and Andy Spinelli.**

**Our Lady of the Assumption: (L-R) Brothers Joe Romanazzi, Aaron Stroh, Peter Kilkenny and Bill Davis.**

**St. Ignatius of Loyola: (L-R) Brothers Frank Consulo, Bill Davis, Peter Kilkenny, Aaron Stroh, Will Friesen and Mike Fazio.**

**Emigh Hardware: Two students from Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish School.**

**MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR 2023 ID DRIVE**



*"Tootsie Brothers" at OLA*



*Membership and Candy at SI*



*PGK Michael Langer at SI*



*Promotional signage at SJE*



*"Tootsie Brothers" at EH*



*"Tootsie Brothers" & Kids at EH*

## Lady Knight Danielle O'Brien Corcoran Passes Away

By Joe Romanazzi, Past Grand Knight, ID Drive Chairman

Lady Knight Danielle Corcoran passed away on October 14, 2023, at the age of 69. Danielle was the wife of our PGK Michael Corcoran. Her services were held on November 4, 2023 at St. John the Evangelist (SJE) Church in Carmichael. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Pastor Fr. Dominic Savio Potnuri, MSFS. Former Pastors Fr. Tom Bland and Fr. Bernardin Mugabo joined Fr. Dominic at the altar, along with Deacons Keith Johnson and Jack Wilson. A Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard Escort Team added to the solemnity of the services. Several dozen Knights and Lady Knights were among the numerous relatives, friends and SJE parishioners who attended the services and the reception that followed in the Tralee Center. ***May the angels lead Lady Knight Danielle's soul to Paradise and may her soul and the souls of all of our deceased Council 4970 Brother Knights and Lady Knights rest in eternal peace. Amen.***



### PRAYER LIST

Please remember these intentions in your prayers:

**All children lost to abortion  
All unborn children and their mothers**

**All Caregivers of the sick  
Deceased of Council 4970**

***Joe Kievernagel***

***Dan Aseltine***

***Jerry Butler***

***Pope Francis***

***Pope Benedict (dec)***

***Michael Aseltine (dec)***

***Christopher Scott (dec)***

***Jacintha Ezeudoye (dec)***

***John DePiazza (dec)***

***Robert Sholtes(dec)***

***Rick Di Regolo (dec)***

***Frank Gianattasio (dec)***

***Georgia Royal (dec)***

***Michael Profumo (dec)***

***Joan Cotton***

***Carolyn "Susie" Fonteyn (dec)***

***Bob Akers***

***Anthony Praxel (dec)***

***Kenneth Scribner (dec)***

***David Bland (dec)***

***Danielle Corcoran (dec)***

***Parishioners of SI, SJE, and***

***OLA Parishes***

***Gene Gobbo***

**To report illness or death  
contact the Grand Knight**

## JOE'S CAFÉ...Stop by for a tasty bit!

By Joe Romanazzi, Past Grand Knight



***“There is nothing small in the service of God.*** These are the words of St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622), a French Bishop, writer and added as a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1877. He is the Patron Saint of writers, authors, journalists and those who are deaf. St. Francis was a spellbinding preacher who amazed people with his oratory skills and intellectual boldness. He was known for his deep faith and his gentle approach to religious divisions resulting from the Protestant Reformation. St. Francis viewed prayer as the key to love of God and saw the pursuit of holiness as something possible to each and every Christian, regardless of vocation, temperament or age. He had a strong belief that anyone could serve God and that everyone is called to be a saint. St. Francis is also known for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction and spiritual formation particularly the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and the *Treatise on the Love of God*. These writings are still popular reading 400 years after his death, His meekness and pleasant disposition won for him the title of “Gentleman Saint.” When a nun caring for St. Francis on his deathbed following a stroke begged him for some last advice, he wrote the word *Humility* three times. He died in France on December 28, 1622 at the age of 55. His feast day is celebrated by the Church on January 24th.

St. Francis de Sales’ writings were based on growing in the love of God and neighbor. This love is strengthened through the sacraments, prayer, and a union of our will with God's will in all aspects of life. St. Francis’ personality, spirituality and writings influenced other saints, including, Saints Vincent de Paul, Frances de Chantal and John Eudes. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, his teachings compelled others in founding religious communities and congregations for men and women desiring to live out the spiritual path that this great saint had developed. Among them were the **Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS)**, also known as **Fransalians**.

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**Continued from Page 6- Joe's Café**

They are an international missionary religious order founded in France in 1838 by Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales. Tasked with bringing about the renewal of Christian life by preaching parish missions, they serve at the request of bishops from dioceses in 30 countries all over the world.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales have been present in the United States formally from 1969—over 50 years. The missionaries are involved in evangelization, education, retreats, parish missions and other specialized ministries as needed. Their pastoral work and lifestyle always characterized the Fransalian spirit of simplicity, gentleness, optimism and service to the local Church.

My Brothers, St. John the Evangelist (SJE) Church in Carmichael is fortunate to be one of the parishes the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) serve. Pastor Father Dominic Salvo Potnuru and Parochial Vicar Father Amar Nagothu arrived in July 2023 following the bishop's annual reassignment of diocesan priests. They both embody Jesus' compassion, mercy, kindness, and love in all their interactions. Their presence at SJE is felt in every aspect of parish life. They are always present before and after Masses to greet parishioners, listen to problems and give blessings. We know that a priest's job is to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus primarily by preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments. These two priests join a long line of others who have served St. John's with unwavering commitment since its founding in 1960. Let us always give thanks to God for the precious gift of the priesthood and to priests like Fathers Dominic and Amar, MSFS who tirelessly spread Christ's message.

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## **Council Hosts Annual Memorial Mass**

By Ken Macdonald

Council 4970 was very pleased to have hosted our annual Memorial Mass and Luncheon for the widows of our Brother Knights who have contributed so much in the service of others. The Mass, officiated by Fr. Dominic Savio, was held in the Chapel at St. John the Evangelist on Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11. at. A luncheon catered by Brother Roy Lasich was served for our distinguished guests immediately following the Mass in the Tralee Center. We were very pleased to serve thirteen widows and their guests, along with nine of our Brother Knights in celebration of the lives and contributions of Brothers who have gone before us. This Mass and luncheon provided the opportunity for a very "Special Day" for the wives of those who have represented our Order so well. Our celebration was enhanced by twelve students from our St. John the Evangelist School who acted as servers for our guests. Council #4970 was very pleased to recognize and serve these Lady Knights.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ARDEN – CARMICHAEL COUNCIL 4970  
PO BOX 175  
Carmichael CA 95609

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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## Ladies Luncheon

*By Jean Gobbo*

There will be no Ladies Luncheon this month due to the Christmas holiday activities with friends and family. Our next Ladies Luncheon will be on January 18<sup>th</sup> at Mimi's, Alta Arden Expy, at 1 PM with a room already reserved for us.

Our November luncheon at the Olive Garden was another success story. Let's start the new year and fill the tables at Mimi's. Looking forward to seeing you next year. Until then blessings this Christmas and always. If you have any questions, please call Glenda Macdonald at 916-631-0774 or myself, Jean Gobbo at 916-261-8674.

