



*From the  
Chaplain*

**LENT:  
THE FINAL COUNTDOWN**

We are in the homestretch of Lent: April 10 is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 17 is Palm-Passion Sunday and the last Sunday of Lent, and Wednesday, April 20, is the last full weekday of Lent before the beginning of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday, April 21. It was important to have a well-designed plan at the beginning of Lent, and it is important to revisit the original plan and make some last-second adjustments now.

Lent is a penitential season, a season to deal with the reality of sin in our lives. Jesus began his preaching ministry with the impassioned plea to his listeners in Galilee and to all people: "Turn away from sin!" "Repent!" (Mk 1:15). This message was first proclaimed on Ash Wednesday during the signing with ashes and has been repeated over and over again throughout this holy season. As Jesus spent forty days and forty nights in fasting and prayer in preparation for his public ministry, we are to spend these forty days and forty nights in preparation for the celebration of Easter, and the best way to prepare is to increase in holiness and decrease in sinfulness. To make headway in this conversion process, the Church suggests four penitential or ascetical practices: prayer, fasting and self-denial, almsgiving, and works of charity.

Mid-Lent is a good time to reassess and recommit to these penitential practices. How are you doing with your plan for Lent? Over these past three and a half weeks, has there been a strengthening of your communal and private prayer? Have you given something up and been faithful to your intention? Have you shared with the needy in the second collections or some other way? Have you gone out of your way to do some good deeds for others? If you were able to say "yes" to one or more of these, great! Keep it up for the homestretch. If your follow-through has been sporadic, or if you have not started at all, Lent is not lost. Don't be hindered by the past. It is half-



*Grand  
Knight's  
Message*



Greetings Brother Knights,

Happy Easter! Happy Spring! I am writing this column during a week where the weather is certainly letting us know that spring is going to be here soon. This time of new birth and growth in nature is sort of like a bonus 'New Year' where we can renew and recommit to that which is most important to us. Our church and our families should rank first. I hope that you will also take a look at your commitment to the Knights of Columbus. Please ask yourself why you joined the Knights of Columbus. Hopefully, the answer that you give yourself includes some of the following – that you want to contribute to your community and your parish from the perspective of an organization that allows you to do so with the added benefit of it being guided by your Catholic faith.

We are quickly approaching the time for our election of officers and are looking for fresh new faces to step up and give of their time and talent. We have openings in a number of our leadership positions and also some long-term chairs of various activities are looking to train in new leaders to carry on these events and activities. I will be blunt; if there are not new people willing to take over these activities and leadership positions in our council, the future of those activities will be in jeopardy and along with that our ability to fulfill the long list of charitable requests that come our way will be in jeopardy as well.

Coming up we have plenty for you to participate in. Ham B.I.N.G.O. anyone? Come and volunteer for a shift or bring your whole family and see how many cards you can manage at once. The Tootsie Roll campaign will be upon us soon and don't forget to plan ahead for the Mother's Day Corsage sale after masses on Mother's Day. Our annual Awards Banquet is also coming up later this spring. If you haven't attended in a few years, you may want to make a point of it this year to come and have a night out with fellow Knights and, of course, this is a chance to treat the ladies as well.

Jim Masteller, Grand Knight

time. If you find yourself behind, devise a plan to catch up and pull ahead. If you are "playing" /praying well, keep it strong over the second half.

There is one important second-half adjustment. The Church strongly recommends the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the last portion of Lent if the sacrament has not been approached recently. It is the sacramental way to address our sinfulness and receive absolution. The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus strongly endorses the Church's teaching, and Supreme has two booklets on this topic: "A Guide to Confession" and "Penance," both which are available on the KC web site: [kofc.org/cis](http://kofc.org/cis).

Finally, our Lenten practices point to the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, April 21, 22, 23-24. Plan now to join your fellow Knights and the rest of the parish in communal prayer for these, our highest holy days, by attending the liturgies in church on these, the most sacred of days.

Fr. Mike Van Sloun



*Prayer  
List*

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Leo Kimmel (son of former brother knight Richard Kimmel); Ruth Lovsted; Jim Lovsted; Tom O'connell; Patrick O'Gorman; John Patchen; Blake Wahlberg; Beth Zelenak (daughter-in-law of Bob); Ralph Smithers; Richard Schanhaar; Michael Lehn; John Gobernatz; Robert Nichols; Leon Barnier.; Bill Ayers; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Bob Belousek; Brian Petschl (son of Mike); Benno Barthel.

If you wish to add a name to the list, please contact Shield Editor Mike Petschl at 763-421-7926 or [mickeyp1543@gmail.com](mailto:mickeyp1543@gmail.com).

## History 2018 Spring

Spring has sprung, the grass is rizz, at least I hope it has. Ya' see, I gotta' write these things a little ahead of schedule and, at this point in time, Belinda is talking about another major winter storm moving in. Well, we'll forge ahead anyway. After all, the Twins are already in spring training, which makes me wonder why they start in winter and call it 'spring training'. Who cares! It's a sure sign of light at the end of the tunnel!

This is the season of renewal! We have all this pent up energy that's been accumulating all winter. When I was a kid, we used to grab the ball gloves and start throwing as soon as we got a warm day and could see some grass. Anyone who swings a golf club is the same way. And the fishermen are in that transitional period between the unsafe ice and some open water to put the boat in. One can always practice the cast after jiggling all winter. Another fun spring thing is to grab a kite and get it aloft in the winds. I once got a book from the library and painstakingly built a kite that resembled a biplane. When spring arrived I took my boys down to the local park and launched my pride and joy only to see it fold up in pieces because the wind was too strong.

And let's not forget all you gardeners out there. The serious gardener soothes the itch somewhat by starting plants under a light or in a mini green house. My dad and my father-in-law were good at that, but it doesn't work for me. I tried it once. My plants grew to about the size of algae and then died no matter what I did. No green thumb here! That's why I prefer farmers markets.

The biggest problem with spring is all the mud we drag in when we attempt to push the season a little too soon. Another problem is that the activities are still pretty limited until all that white stuff is gone and the frost is out of the ground. 'Course when that happens, there's yard work and gardening to get ready for the next season. Have you ever noticed how we beat ourselves up hoping for the next season to get here and then complaining about all the work involved? It's just a different kind of work then what we had been doing. My main project in the spring now is getting all the lawn equipment tuned up so I'm ready when that grass does begin to grow. And, if it already has, just remember this: there's nothing nicer after a long, hard winter than rolling around in some nice, green grass; just make sure you

did a good job of picking up the winter's worth of dog stuff before you do. I'm gone, 'cuz my time is up! See ya' next month.

Mike Petschl, historian

### TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Anoka Knights of Columbus will participate in the annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

During the first two days brother Knights will stand at various businesses to hand out Tootsie Rolls and collect donations. On Sunday we will collect after all the masses.

Monies received will be donated to local organizations whose mission is to help people with learning disabilities. Brother Knights and families are needed to help hand out Tootsie Rolls. Please contact me if you are able to help at: 763-422-1128 or [vrjr@hotmail.com](mailto:vrjr@hotmail.com).

Vern Rausch & Tom Matlon  
chairs

### EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

I have a new email address for Shield articles: [mickeyp1543@gmail.com](mailto:mickeyp1543@gmail.com). Those of you who send me articles by email, please make the correction. Mike Petschl  
editor

## Anoka Home Association Meeting

The annual meeting of the Anoka Home Association is planned for Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 P.M. at the Anoka KC Hall. All members of Council 2018 are invited to attend. Voting rights however are reserved to shareholders only. You can become a shareholder by contacting Roger Renner at 763-427-6100. Shares are \$25.00 each. Simply stated the Home Association owns the KC Hall building since KC Councils cannot own buildings. Every council member is invited to buy a share and take part in the Home Association business. All are welcome!!

In early March the Home Association provided the funding to improve the heating system in the KC Hall. At the same time the ceiling in the upstairs bathroom was replaced, the faucets in the men's bathroom were replaced, and the furnace room was totally cleaned up. Many thanks to a fantastic volunteer work crew. They were Jeff Kieffer, Dale Guimont, Ken Erkens, Terry Velasco, Paul Aberle, and Rick Aberle. The consultants from All Systems Mechanical, John Spencer and John Kane, were also a real pleasure to work with. Thank you to all of them.

Al Kempf

President, Anoka Home Association

## COME TO THE BANQUET

### Food, Entertainment, Awards

This is an opportunity you don't want to miss. Enjoy dinner with your brother Knights and friends. This will be followed by some great entertainment. We are privileged to present the Cassidy Brothers all of whom live in the northwest metro area. They are an inspirational vocal quartet who have been inspiring audiences for years with their vocal harmonies and down-to-earth style. The sound of the Cassidy Brothers is inspired by vocal groups such as the Four Freshmen, the Hi-Lo's, the Lettermen, and the Singers Unlimited. Other influences include the Gaither Vocal Band, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, the Gatlin Brothers, Haven of Rest Quartet, and the Imperials. Send in your reservations for this enjoyable evening soon.

(Full information on flyer insert.)



# The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1, 8, 15 Fr. Mike's Fish Dinner  
6-7:30PM, St. Stephen's FCC

April 5 Planning Meeting, 7:30PM  
KC Hall

April 9 Bingo, 6:30-10PM  
St. Stephen's FCC

April 12 Business Meeting, 7:30PM  
KC Hall

April 24 Easter Sunday

April 29-May 1 Tootsie Roll Drive

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## KC GOLF LEAGUE

Golfers from the Anoka Council join up with KC golfers from the Osseo Council in the summertime to have some fun at Daytona Golf Club. Members are invited to join as regulars or else as subs for regulars that can't make it. We golf on Wednesday afternoons with tee times beginning around 4:15. We normally have six tee times reserved but that depends on how many regular golfers we have. The league normally runs from late April to early September. If you are interested in this activity please give league secretary, Dick Montroy a call at 612-419-0419.

## Mid-Winter Breakfast Wrap-up

On Sunday, January 23rd, we served 385 people at our 11th Annual Mid-Winter Breakfast. Many thanks to the 44 people that volunteered their time to make this event run very smoothly. We cleared \$1109.10 this year and will donate \$1100 to the ACBC Foodshelf. In addition to these funds, an amount of up to about \$400 will be matched by the Foodshelf in March, with the potential for more matching funds in April.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by after Mass and enjoyed our breakfast and helped us to attain these numbers. We look forward to another successful event next year!

Jeff Kieffer, Phil Lesnar, Gary Kempf  
Mid-Winter Breakfast Chairs

## WEBSITE HELP NEEDED

**We are greatly in need of assistance with our website. If you have knowledge on building and maintaining a website and can assist us with this project, please contact Ray Danzl at 763-754-6303.**

## KC INSURANCE AGENT

Our new field agent is Dale Robinson, who has stepped down as a general agent to get back to what he likes doing best, selling insurance to Brother Knights. He requested to be assigned to the Anoka Council, because we have been without an assigned agent for most of the last few years. Please be considerate when he contacts you, invite him into your home for a cup of coffee and let him show you what the Knights Insurance Program has to offer.

## EMAIL LIST

We have implemented an email notification program as of late February. The idea is to keep members informed of timely issues that can't wait for the Shield to be published. Currently we have about 275 members on board, but there are many members that we haven't been able to contact at this point. If you didn't receive the initial message or have not been in contact with me, but do have an email address and would like to be placed on the list, please contact Mike Petschl at: mickeyp1543@gmail.com.