



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Christmas 2011 St. James Council 4949 - Columbus Court - 301-3003 Gateby Place - Vernon, British Columbia V1T 9H5 -

## Christmas Greetings

### Christmas Edition 2011



Grand Knight Guenter A. Rieger  
**My dear Brother Knights.**



December is the Spiritual month of Joy when we Catholics welcome and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During Advent we “prepare the way of the Lord” for His coming as our King and Savior.

The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom.

“Why do we have a decorated Christmas Tree? In the 7th century a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, went to Germany to teach the Word of God. He did many good works there, and spent much time in Thuringia, an area which was to become the cradle of the Christmas Decoration Industry.

Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir Tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The converted people began to revere the Fir tree as God's Tree, as they had previously revered the Oak.

By the 12th century it was being hung, upside-down, from ceilings at Christmastime in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.

Chaplain F. Dale Normandeau  
**Dear Brother Knights.**



The gift we receive is the Lord and Saviour Himself. The Lord Jesus was born in the fullness of our humanity, save sin, so that we would receive the gift of salvation through Him.

We commemorate His birth and come away having received the greatest gift of all--our salvation. While our thankful response will always be inadequate in light of such an overwhelming gift, let us at least make it sincere. Take a moment this Christmas Season to include a the words "thank you" in your prayers.

May you all have a happy, holy and safe Christmas and may God continue to bless you in the New Year.

Vivat Jesus,  
*Fr. Dale Normandeau*

It is the custom, when attending a birthday celebration, to bring gifts for the one celebrating the birthday.

With Christmas, however, recipient of the gifts is reversed. It is we who commemorate our Saviour's birth who receives gifts.



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The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510". -

My family and I celebrate Christmas on Christmas eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, a European tradition.

During Christmas many people helping people in need. Our Council supported again financially the initiative "Together for Christmas". -

Radio stations playing soft songs including Christmas songs and TV



stations air movies without violence. -

Christmas a reminder that peace on earth could be possible. We're are fortunate to be able to enjoy religious freedom in Canada.

Today, Christmas is getting more and more commercialized and the true meaning of Christmas can get lost. -

Christmas is much more than buying gifts or being nice for a few days to our neighbors, friends, family members or co workers etc.

Practicing love, as Jesus demonstrated to us, would make the world a better place to live.

Christmas is giving us each year an opportunity to be kind, and it could be applied for the entire year. -

Looking back the Knights of Columbus of St. James Council have shown again kindness and willingness to make positive changes happen.

Our Council has raised thousand of dollar and given back to organizations, priests and Bursaries.

Some of you may have not attended regularly our meetings, but you were involved in different

other activities by making people's lives, you may don't know, much better.

During the Christmas season we can witness that people around the world are more kind and helpful, but unfortunately only during Christmas.

Problems recognized during the Christmas season existing the entire year, but only addressed on Christmas.

We as Knights of Columbus should be willing to apply the Christmas spirit every day. Looking back I can state with confidence that our Council is working in every aspect to help people in need the whole year. -

New Years resolutions being made in different ways and promises to follow it up. -

A excellent New Years resolution could be "trying to be a better person". It could be so simple, just applying the Christmas spirit to our daily lives. -

I had the opportunity to witness many good things which we as Knights of Columbus doing, and I am proud to say that I'm a Knight of Columbus and you Brother Knight should be proud too, being called a Knight.

We had a wonderful turnout at Father Dale's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday party. The Christmas Wine and Cheese was very well attended.

The 100 year celebration of the Knights of Columbus and Yukon celebrated in the Schubert Centre was a success too. Our Brother Knights from the Pancake Breakfast crew did again an excellent job, including our Brothers selling Charity

Appeal tickets or cleaning the ground of St. James Church or helping St. James Catholics School.

You will find more activities in the "First Edition 2011-2012, (Activities between July and December. I hope to complete the First Edition

2011-2012 of St James Council 4949 activities before end of December). -

Thanks again Brother Knights for attending our meetings and your support shown in different council / church and community activities. Thanks to the Executive including our hard working FS Brother Mark Lopianoswki. Thanks to all our wives allowing us to do our work as Knights of Columbus.

A big THANKS is going to our Chaplain Fr. Dale Normandeau for his spiritual guidance and support for St. James Council 4949.

On behalf of my wife Regina, myself and my family, I want to wish you and your family a very happy, holy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2012.

Thank you and God bless you,  
*Guenter A. Rieger, Grand Knight*

**"In a time when all things religious are being discouraged and swept away, it's refreshing to know that the Knights of Columbus sponsors the "Keep Christ in Christmas"**



**campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ".**