

The Shield

August 2025

Knights of Columbus
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451
P.O. Box 15296,
Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296
Phone: 260-438-3112
Office: 260-484-3392 x347
E mail: Knights451fw@gmail.com



Grand Knights Message

As I start my tenure as Grand Knight of Council 451, I'll ask for prayers and patience as I learn "the ropes". I know I can rely on my predecessors and other members to help keep me between the guardrails as I tackle this latest endeavor. I appreciate the confidence members have shown in me, and my goal is not to let Council 451 down. I would encourage all members to contact me or any other officer with questions or concerns as we enter into our new fiscal year.

There's a number of upcoming opportunities for Knights to become involved as (sadly) our summer is winding down. We'll have a landscaping project at a date/time to be determined, graciously to be planned when things cool off a bit weather-wise. There's a crew that usually helps out at Fr. Bobby's Bibles and Burgers on Thursdays, but new blood is always welcomed and appreciated. Cardinal Fest is around the corner!

Knights should be sure to check their emails for meeting minutes and editions of the Shield and read them for updated information that may affect them and the Council. "Transparency" is a term that is used so often, it almost has no credibility. But the goal in sending these communications is so we officers do our best to keep members informed.

The big news at St. Charles is that Fr. Tom is now Monsignor Tom! Congratulations to Monsignor Tom for recognition well deserved, and overdue! The formal presentation of the Vatican decree will be August 4, giving him the official title of Chaplain of His Holiness.

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
Grand Knight, Council 451

	August		September
2	Blood Drive at Red Cross Donation Center	1	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
6	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	3	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
11	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	5-6	Cardinal Fest
11	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	8	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
16-17	Seminarian Bake sale	21	St. Vincent DePaul walk/run
22-24	Men's Tools and Toys Garage Sale	23	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
26	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	27	St. Charles Young Adults Retreat Lunch at St. Felix's in Huntington
		27	Gibault Envoy Conference at Terre Haute, IN
			1

Tempus fugit. Memento mori — “Time flies. Remember death”



For generations, when Knights are inducted into the fraternal order, they hear the words Tempus fugit. Memento mori — “Time flies. Remember death.” At the time of one’s passing, those simple yet profound words take on new meaning for all those whom they have touched in life. Death is not the end.

We do well by praying for our brothers who have moved on to Eternal Life. As we lose one of our own, Council 451 has a Mass offered for the repose of his soul. In this corner of The Shield, we will let you know the date and time of this mass. If possible, we encourage you to attend.

**** David Abbott – entered Eternal Life on 6/8/2025 – Mass 8/19/2025 8:15am at St. Charles Borromeo.**

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Vivat Jesus!



Prayers for Brother Knights

Brother Knights, please pray for the following Brother Knights or family members:

Mike Bonaham, Larry Delaney, Teri Dennison, A J Drew, Elsie Faghih, Justin Fralick, Michael Friend, Caroline Grote, Dave Grote, John Hackman, George Kessen, Sr. Mirian Kessens SSND, Jo Ellen Koehl, Patty Kohrman, Tony Kraft, Lillian Krider, John Londt, Don Luther & Sharon Luther, Kathleen Magasam, Family of Jay Nelson, Bill & Kathy Palmersheim, the Tom Pycz family, Jill Redding, Brock & Lynda Rittenhouse, Keith Robertson, Janet Rose, Carl Sabo, Emily & John Sasser, Ann Schwartz, Ray & Tony Shot, Colin Smith, Roger Steup, John Thieme, Barbara Tratnyek, Janet Waldschmidt, Richard Wallace, Ed Welling, Sheila Welling and Frank Yeranko.

Pray for all the brother Knights sick or in distress, those confined to nursing homes and all deceased brother Knights.

Pray for all the Priests of our Diocese and for all Seminarians studying for the priesthood.
Please pray for our military.

If there are changes to this list, (additions or deletions), please notify any officer.



First Wednesday of The Month Mass

The first Wednesday of each month Steve Lutz, State Knights of Columbus Veterans Affairs Chairman and Dr. Thomas Ryan PGK sponsor the noon Mass at the Fort Wayne VA Hospital at 2121 Lake Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN 46805.

They would like for you to join them on August 6, 2025 and each following month. Steve will greet you at the main entrance and direct you to the Mass location.

Brother Knights from other Councils have been attending and they look forward to seeing you.



Monthly Mass & Breakfast !

Our monthly Knights Mass and Breakfast has expanded to the second Monday and forth Tuesday of the month. We meet at St. Charles for 8:15A.M. Mass, and follow Mass with breakfast at Lakeside Cafe. All Knights and potential Knights are welcome to join us for this faith and fellowship opportunity.

If you have any questions, call or text Darren Schortgen at (260)385-7603.

Please join us on Monday, August 11 and/or August 26, 2025

Happy August Birthdays



Eric Ade
Leroy Carcione
V. John Elsasser
Michael Furniss
Kyle Hartman
John Henry, Jr.
Christopher Jozwiak
Joseph McKenna
William Meyer
Daniel Munson III
James Piet
Philip Poinsatte

A. Joseph Rager
Chris Rittenhouse
Chris Rodenbeck
Mark Russett
Roger Steup
Terrill "Terry" Stults
Jared Thompson
Craig Vander Maden
Robert Weingartner
Jason Wellman
Kevin Zehr
Mark Zwierko



We want to welcome **Michael Arciga** who joined our Council in the past month.

We hope to see you at many of our upcoming events!



Can Crushers Schedule

Jul 27 - Aug 2 : Jason Gabet

Aug 3 - Aug 9 : Joe Mikolay

Aug 10-Aug16: Tim Slater

Aug 17-Aug23: Sean Digan

Aug 24-Aug30: Joe Mikolay

If you would like to volunteer your time to help crush can please contact Jason Gabet at 260-403-6230 or gabet60@aol.com.

Remember all funds collected from the cans go to support Gibault.

Congratulations

Monsignor Tom Shoemaker



Big Boys Tools and Toys Garage Sale #4

We are pleased to announce another K of C 451 "BIG BOYS TOOLS and TOYS Garage Sale on Friday August 22nd, Sat August 23rd and Sunday August 24th after the 11:00 am Mass. As before, we need everyone to clean out your garages, basements and offices of unused or unneeded, gently used Tools and Recreation Equipment. Bring them to the parish garages beginning Friday August 14th through Wednesday August 21st. We will endeavor to find them new homes and help generate funds for our charitable causes. Our goal this year is \$4,000 so we need your help. If every one of our 350+ members donates a gently used tool or big boy toy we should reach our goal in support of our charitable endeavors. In addition to your donations, as in past years, **WE NEED 20+ VOLUNTEERS** to collect, check out, clean / repair the donated items, set-up and tear-down and host the actual sales.

Please consider volunteering if possible to fill these needs.

Thank you very much for your help.

Frank Koehl Ph 260-466-7301, Jkoehl603@frontier.com



Past Grand Knight Jack Wehrly receiving his PGK name badge from Doug Baisinger at the Council meeting on July 7, 2025.



*Photos provided by
Doug Baisinger*



Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree News

Sir Knights,

Our officers held an informal planning meeting on July 8th. We set dates for our routine activities for the coming year. There could be more activities scheduled as the year progresses. Our next gathering will be September 9, at 7:00 pm, for our installation of officers. All are welcome to attend. There will be a reception after the installation with snacks.

Our country is facing many threats from within our borders and outside. The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus are known as the Patriotic Degree. But we are more than patriots, we are Catholic Patriots. Our greatest strength is prayer and the practice of our faith. Every Sir Knight should strive to be not only a faithful Catholic but an exemplary Catholic. The Eucharist and the Holy Mass is our strength. Let us look for ways to be an example to all of what we believe and treasure.

For God, Country, and Neighbor
Mike Blankman, Navigator
Anthony Wayne Assembly 239

*Meetings are held at the Saint Mother T. Guerin Chapel basement on the
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.*





Habitat for Humanity - Build Day 1

The St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council 451 was busy Saturday, June 28, 2025 volunteering to build a new home for a deserving Fort Wayne family through Habitat for Humanity on Lillie Street in Downtown Fort Wayne. Brother Knights Edward Lubomirski, Deacon Rob Lortie, Justin Purdy, Dave Lothamer, and Geary Hoy spent the day installing vinyl siding as they worked to “build on faith, build up families and build community together,” the mission of Habitat for Humanity. We also provided Subway lunch for our volunteers and 6 other outside volunteers. We even got to work alongside the future homeowner of the home we worked on!



Pictured Left to Right: Geary Hoy, Dave Lothamer, Edward Lubomirski, Decan Rob Lortie, Justin Purdy, and Future Habitat Homeowner



Justin Purdy



Dave Lothamer



Deacon Rob Lortie



Geary Hoy



Dave Lothamer



Geary Hoy



Edward Lubomirski

Photos provided by Justin Purdy

Habitat for Humanity - Build Day 2

The St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council 451 was busy Saturday, July 19, 2025 volunteering to build a new home for a deserving Fort Wayne family through Habitat for Humanity on Hurd Street in Downtown Fort Wayne. Brother Knights Edward

Lubomirski, Justin Purdy, Joe Mikolay, Tom Ryan, and Michael Vanderpool spent the day installing vinyl siding as they worked to “build on faith, build up families and build community together,” the mission of Habitat for Humanity. We also provided Subway lunch for our volunteers and 6 other outside volunteers.



Ed Lubomirski, Michael Vanderpool, Tom Ryan, Joe Mikolay, & Justin Purdy



Michael Vanderpool & Tom Ryan



Tom Ryan & Michael Vanderpool



Justin Purdy



Justin Purdy



Ed Lubomirski



Joe Mikolay

Photos provided by Justin Purdy

School Desk Painting Project

For the second summer in a row Council 451 beautified 90 ancient school desks. The second-grade desks had to be transported from the school to the parish office garage, one classroom at a time, where we removed the tops and cleaned all the sticky gunk off them. After that we sanded and primed the metal and sprayed them with a finish coat of clay colored industrial enamel. The desks were reassembled and returned to their original classroom.

The project began on Friday June 13th and was completed on July 5th. Because of the different steps involved we spent 3 days each week and 3-4 hours per day completing our tasks. Usually, 6-7 Knights per day were present resulting in a total of 200 plus hours.

Special thanks to Geary Hoy, Mike Maskal, Joe Lauer, Dennis Redding, Tom Richter, Don Smith, Dennis Holp, Tony Hasselschwert and Dave Lothamer for making this major project such a success.

Past Grand Knight: Jack Wehrly



Joe Lauer, Jack Wehrly, Mike Maskal, Tom Richter, Dennis Holp and Geary Hoy pose for a picture after painting the last of 90 second grade desks.



Mike Maskal, Tom Richter, Geary Hoy, Dennis Holp, Dennis Redding and Don Smith pause to admire their work while painting the first 30 second grade desks for the school.



Mike Maskal in protective gear ready to paint.



Joe Lauer, Geary Hoy and Dennis Redding are preparing the second batch of desks for painting.



Photos provided by Dennis Redding



4th Blood Drive of the Year

Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 7:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. at the Red Cross Donation Center 1212 East California Rd.



Council 451 Achieves Star Council Recognition for FY 2024-2025

Great news is that Council 451 has been recognized by Supreme as a Star Council for FY 2024-2025. As a matter of note (and opportunity to brag) Council 451 is one of only eight Councils in the state of Indiana to achieve this recognition. We've done it 3 years straight and 8 of the last 10 years! Star Council achievement recognizes outstanding performance in membership, insurance, programming and overall operations. We're proud of this recognition, which reflects the positive impact Council 451 has had on our parish and community!

Bibles and Burgers with Fr. Bobby



On Thursday evenings again this summer, several of the Knights from Council 451 assisted Fr. Bobby with his Bibles and Burgers program by helping with setup and tear down before and after his Bible Study Presentations. Tim Isch, Jim Pifko and Gene Delaney cooked 80-90 hamburgers each Thursday evening, while Dennis Redding, Tom Richter, Bruce Bennett, Tom Keefer, Jack Wehrly and others set up the area for a picnic dinner. Always a good time!



Dennis Redding and Tom Richter taking tables outside to place food on for Fr. Bobby's Bible and burgers presentation.



Tim Isch prepares the grill for cooking burgers



Tom Keefer setting out traffic cones to keep the picnic area safe for the Bible's and Burgers get-together.



Tom, Dennis, and Tom conversing about who knows what.



Jim Pifko and Tim Isch cooking the first batch of burgers, 88 total.



Fr. Bobby enthusiastically presents his views on the evening's topic



A crowd of 80 plus enjoying burgers and carry-in picnic food, while they listen to Fr. Bobby's talk.



Photos provided by Jack Wehrly 7



Installation of New Council 451 Officers 2025-2026



DD Tom Ryan swore in the new officers at our July meeting and that new Grand Knight, Dennis Holp, will lead the Council for the next 2 years.



Deacon Rob, Council 451's Chaplain, blessing the officers jewels before they are presented to the new officers.



DD Tom Ryan presenting new Grand Knight, Dennis Holp, with the GK's jewel.



DD Tom Ryan presenting new Deputy Grand Knight, Sean Digan, his DKG jewel.



DD Tom Ryan swearing in new 2025-2026 officers.



Pictures of all the Council's new 2025-2026 officers standing in the shape of a cross.

Photos provided by Doug Baisinger

Big Brothers Big Sisters

On Tuesday July 22nd there was a luncheon at the Clyde Theater sponsored by BBBS. The luncheon kicked off the beginning of a new school year that is upcoming for Real Men Read and School Lunch Buddies.

Real Men Read only takes about 5 to 6 hours of your time for the entire school year. You read a book to either second or third grade students. The impact that you can make on 25 to 30 young children is massive. You can make a huge impact for a minimal amount of time.

Here is a link to apply to be a Real Men Read Volunteer:

<https://bbbs.tfaforms.net/4842453>

There is a large need for the School Lunch Buddy program. This involves having lunch with a child who is in need of a mentor. You are matched with a young person and have lunch with them a day of your choice once a week. Lunch for elementary children generally is about 20 minutes followed by 20 minutes of recess.

This is the link to apply to be a School Buddy:

<https://bbbsa.my.site.com/bbbsforms/s/?type=big>

Interesting note, Council 451's involvement in the program began in response to Monsignor Tom's request to get involved in the program. Currently there are several brother Knights actively involved in the program.



Joe Mikolay and Jim Keefer at the BBBS Luncheon



PLAY BALL!



One-day Mushball event!

Want to try out a new sport?

Never heard of Mushball? Come find out at a one-day tournament on September 6!

Knight of Columbus, Council 451 is hosting a friendly one-day Mushball tournament to coincide with Cardinal Fest on September 6.

Join us for a fun, adults-only (18+) social activity!

- 1) Form a team of at least ten players (co-ed welcome)!
- 2) Play at least two games on September 6 – Games last 6 innings or 45 minutes!
- 3) Join in the festivities at Cardinal Fest throughout the day!
- 4) Celebrate with the winners in the beer tent after the games!

Register by 8/20/25

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- A minimum of 4 teams and a maximum of 8
 - All teams will play at least two games
 - Entry Fee is: \$50 per team
- Food and drinks available for the duration of the event (alcohol will be available in the beer tent starting at noon) – Please note that no outside food or drink is allowed.
- Final schedule depends on the number of teams but would start no earlier than 9am and end no later than 7pm (you won't be playing all day!)
- Mushball is a variation of softball that keeps the games moving and gives everyone a chance to participate!
 - Teams with more than 10 members will field 10, but everyone bats!
- No gloves or equipment are needed! Feel free to bring your own bat (aluminum only)!

See reverse for sample schedule.

Teams must have a Team Captain – Submit a sign-up sheet or contact Mike Ripley at 260-205-3689 or mike.ripley50@gmail.com

Additional Details



The sample schedule below is for a full 8 team day, but the number of games and start and end times for the day will depend on the final number of teams.

Due to excise regulations for Cardinal Fest, no outside food or drink will be allowed. Food and drinks may be purchased through Cardinal Fest.

Game	Time	Home	Away
1	9am	Team 1	Team 3
2	9:50am	Team 2	Team 4
3	10:40am	Team 5	Team 6
4	11:30am	Team 7	Team 8
	12:20pm	Break	Break
5	1pm	Team 3	Team 2
6	1:50pm	Team 4	Team 1
7	2:40pm	Team 6	Team 7
8	3:30pm	Team 8	Team 5
9	4:20pm	1 st Place Teams 1-4	2 nd Place Teams 5-8
10	5:10pm	1 st Place Teams 5-6	2 nd Place Teams 1-4
11	6pm	4:20pm Winner	5:10pm Winner

*As a fun award, the winning team will be given tickets for drinks at the beer tent starting at 7pm!

Register by 8/20/25

For more information, contact Mike Ripley at 260-205-3689 or mike.ripley50@gmail.com

Mushball Rules

- Modified single pitch (one foul ball allowed on first pitch)
- Plate and mat are both a strike.
- 6 inning games (no run rule), or 45 minute time limit
- Arc 6 to 12 feet (ASA rules)
- Infield fly rule can be called
- 10 players on the field at time (6 infielders & 4 outfielders),
- May bat more than 10 players
- No metal spikes. No wooden bats.

Fiscal Budget 2025/2026

July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026

PROJECTED INCOME FISCAL 2025/2026

Annual Dues	\$10,000
Checking Account Interest	\$100
Donations to Council	\$5,000
Fish Fry	\$10,000
Gibault Donations Income	\$3,800
Interest & Principal Reed Road	\$19,000
Membership Donation	\$5,000
Memorial	\$5,000
Seminarian Support	\$4,500
Shirt Sales	\$500
Spaghetti Dinner	\$5,000
Misc. Income	\$250
Special Events Income	\$3,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$71,150

St. Charles Borromeo

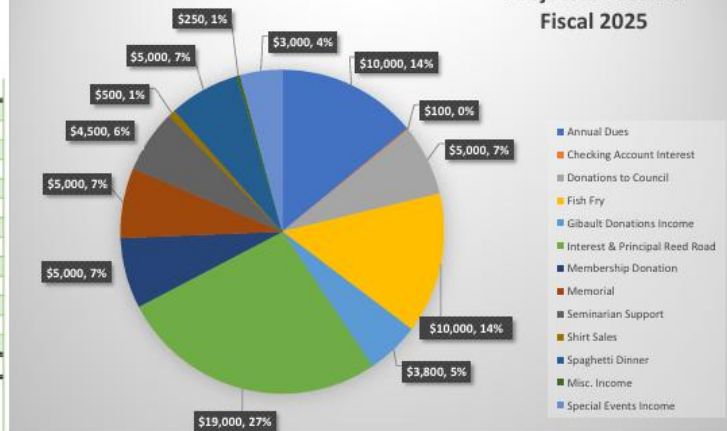


PROJECTED EXPENSES FISCAL 2025/2026

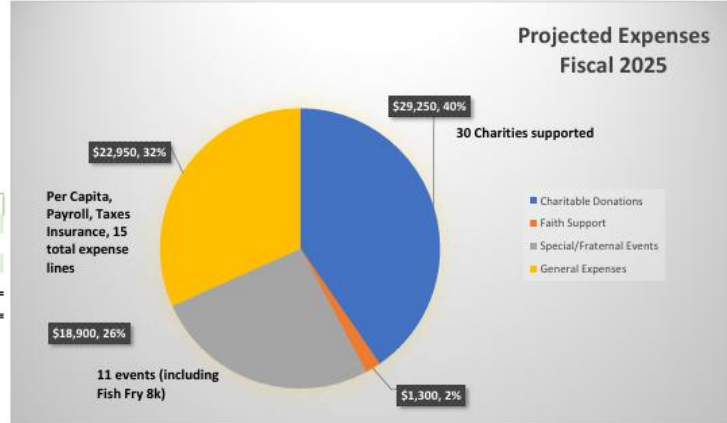
Charitable Donations	\$29,250
Faith Support	\$1,300
Special/Fraternal Events	\$18,900
General Expenses	\$22,950
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$72,400

7/29/2025

Projected Income Fiscal 2025



Projected Expenses Fiscal 2025



Fiscal 2025 Budget vs Actual

	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025 Budget	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025 Actual	Difference +/-
INCOME			
Annual Dues	\$9,500	\$10,250	\$750
Checking Account Interest	\$100	\$64	-\$36
Donations to Council	\$4,000	\$7,023	\$3,023
Fish Fry	\$12,000	\$10,626	-\$1,374
Gibault Donations Income	\$3,900	\$4,711	\$811
Interest & Principal Reed Road	\$12,500	\$18,500	\$6,000
Membership Donation	\$5,000	\$7,833	\$2,833
Memorial	\$5,000	\$0	-\$5,000
Misc. Inc.	\$300	\$448	\$148
Seminarian Support	\$4,000	\$4,712	\$712
Shirt Sales	\$500	\$210	-\$290
Spaghetti Dinner	\$5,000	\$5,037	\$37
Special Events Income	\$500	\$0	-\$500
TOTAL INCOME	\$62,300	\$69,414	\$7,114

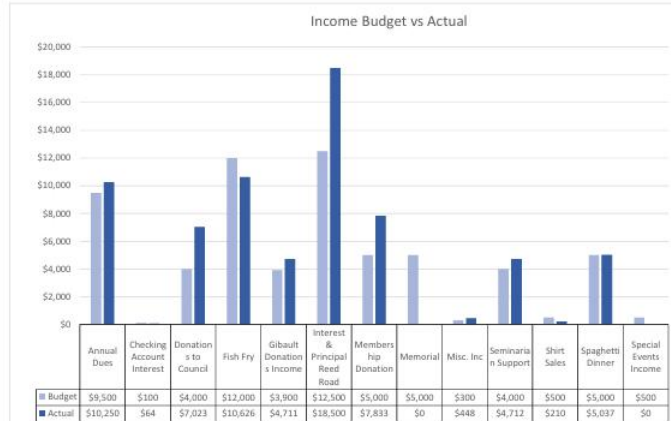
St. Charles Borromeo



	Fiscal 2024/2025 Budget	Fiscal 2024/2025 Actual	Difference +/-
EXPENSES			
Charitable Donations	\$22,575	\$30,424	\$7,849
Faith Support	\$1,200	\$918	-\$282
Special/Fraternal Events	\$18,050	\$16,846	-\$1,204
General Expenses	\$19,625	\$22,255	\$2,630
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$61,450	\$70,443	\$8,993

7/29/2025

Income	\$69,414
Expense	\$70,443
Difference	-\$1,029



2025-2026 Officers
Council 451

Chaplain

Deacon Robert Lortie

Grand Knight

Dennis Holp 438-3112

Deputy Grand Knight

Sean Digan 417-0216

Chancellor

Jason Gabet 403-6230

Financial Secretary

Doug Baisinger 486-8533

Recorder

Michael Ripley 205-3689

Warden

Gene Delaney 750-7600

Treasurer

Joe Mikolay 348-9416

Trustees

3 Jack Wehrly 414-0421

2 Bruce Bennett 409-0229

1 Dennis Redding 615-1692

Advocate

Vince Lochbihler 515-7870

Inside Guard

Blane Ryan 615-1728

Outside Guard

Charles Smith 403-7792

District Deputy

Tom Ryan DO

District14@indianakofc.org



2025-2026 Directorships:

Membership and Public Relations Director

Justin Purdy 410-3125

Fraternal Director

Gene Delaney 750-7600

Fraternal co-Director

Tim Isch 715-5984

Life Director

Kirk Crosby (865) 399-3052

Family Directors

Sam Sliger 750-8657

Gibault Envoy

Mike Smith 479-7199

Faith Director

Tony Hasselschwert 413-5310

Community Director

Dennis Redding 615-1692

Anthony Wayne Assembly
2025-2026

Faithful Friar

Rev. William Kummer 574-780-0824

Faithful Navigator

Mike Blankman 260-413-6376

Faithful Captain

Mark Steiglitz 505-710-1553

Faithful Pilot

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

Faithful Scribe

Blane Ryan 260-623-6808

Faithful Comptroller

John Murray 260-486-6870

Faithful Purser

Loren Nichter 260-413-1463

Faithful Inside Sentinel

Mike Shane 260-246-1117

Faithful Outside Sentinel

Dennis Redding 260-615-1692

Faithful Trustee

1. Ed Koehl 260-338-0743

2. Rick Jennings 260-494-5982

3. Mike Descala 217-553-2572

Faithful Admiral

Richard Burton 260-432-7030

Faithful Honor Guard

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

peteduran@frontier.com

Master IN District

SK Pat Glavin 773-954-3975

master@indianakofc.org

Master Sir Knight IN District

Michael R Ticich 773-447-7587



Please bring your cans to the Knights of Columbus shed!
We will crush the cans and recycle them
for cash to be donated to Gibault!

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ALUMINUM FOIL
OR ALUMINUM PANS—ONLY CANS.** Thank you!



**Have you recently
moved or are you
moving?**

If so please advise us by
emailing your new
address to:

Knights451fw@gmail.com

or send a note to:

P.O. 15296

Fort Wayne, IN

46885-5296.

Thank you!!!

12



Your Insurance Agent
For The Knights of Columbus Insurance is:
Nicholas Goralczyk
574-457-8111
nick.goralczyk@kofc.org