

# The Shield

**December 2025**

Knights of Columbus  
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451  
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## Grand Knights Message

Brothers:

Here's hoping all of you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. It's good to just take some time and focus and reflect on all the blessing we've all been given. The holidays make for crazy, busy times, so we slow our roll a bit and thanks God, friends and families for all the good things we have. Good advice would be for all of us to do so more than once a year!

Welcome to all our new 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights to our Fr. Thomas Brandon Council 451, some of whom participated in our recent exemplification ceremony. The ceremony is quite solemn and impressive. If you haven't experienced one, it's a wonderful opportunity to renew your commitment to the principles of charity, unity and fraternity as a member of the Knights of Columbus.


As we welcomed new Knights, we also acknowledged our Brother Knights who have left us in the last year. We made a final roll call at our annual Veterans' Mass, with a tolling of the bell for each Brother as their names were called. The watch word of our Order is "Tempus Fugit. Memento Mori", or "Time flies. Remember death". None of us is guaranteed tomorrow. It's always a gift we should be thankful for. Let's use our time the best we can.

Important reminders: Gifts for Gibault should be delivered by Monday at our monthly meeting, and it's not too late (yet) to sign up for our December 6 Christmas party for knights and their "significant others". Let's help brighten Christmas for some kids and then celebrate the reason for the season!

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp  
Grand Knight, Council 451



	December		January
1	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	1	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
3	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	3	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
6	Christmas Party  at 6pm	22	Science Fair Judging at St. Charles School
7	Help with Pancake & Sauage breakfast with Santa Claus	22-30	Novena for Life after 6:30pmMass
9	Mass for Richard Fifeiski at 8:15am	23	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
23	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	31	Allen County "Right to Life March"



## Monthly Mass & Breakfast !

Our monthly Knights Mass and Breakfast is held on the forth Tuesday of the month. We meet at St. Charles for 8:15A.M. Mass, and follow Mass with breakfast at Lakeside Cafe. All nights 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 Tuesday,  
December 23, 2025



## 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 December 3, 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.



## From the Financial Secretary

Welcome to Brother Knight's Jeffrey Rose, Donald Hayden and Kevin Heimann who have transferred into Council 451 during October and November. Welcome to William Loomis who has rejoined the Knight's after a break in service.

We also welcome the following new Brother Knights who went through the new member exemplification ceremony. Richard Henry, Father Jerry, Doyle Minix, Joe Potthoff, Keith Harris, and Sean Bennett.

Council 451 is very glad that you all decided to join our council at St. Charles. We are looking forward to seeing you at our meetings and taking part in our future activities

## *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.

**\*Richard Fifeiski – entered Eternal Life on 5/14/2025 – Mass 12/9/2025 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, Jo Ellen Koehl, Patty Kohrman, Tony Kraft, Lillian Krider, John Londt, Sharon Luther, Kathleen Magasam, Family of Jay Nelson, Bill & Kathy Palmersheim, the Tom Pycz family, Keith Robertson, Janet Rose, Carl Sabo, Emily & John Sasser, Ann Schwartz, Ray & Tony Shot, Colin Smith, Roger Steup, John Thieme, Barbara Tratnyek, Janet Waldschmidt, Diana Wallace, 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.***

## Happy December Birthdays

Ralph Bass	James Riczo
Kristopher Bosi	Michael Ripley
Todd Francke	Blane Ryan
Christopher Gustafson	Robert Schneider Sr
Shane Hall	Darren Schortgen
Anthony Kohne	Lucas Scott
Dcn. Robert Lortie	Fr. John Sheehan
Luke Luther	William Sliger
Stephen Lutz	Corbett Smith
Andrew Meyer	Russell Suever
Joseph Millhouse	Philip Teusch
Howard Mossing	Matthew Ueber
John Palmersheim	Christopher Wroe
Thomas Richter	James Yoder





### Can Crushers Schedule

Nov 30 - Dec 6 : Joe Mikolay  
 Dec 7 - Dec 13 : Sean Digan  
 Dec 14 - Dec 20 : Eric Seely

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.**

The annual fundraiser for St Charles Athletics, the Pancake Breakfast w/Santa is on **Sunday, December 7th**. We need many volunteers that day from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM to make this year's event a success. Please check out available spots and sign up!

If you are unable to volunteer, please bring your family and join us on December 7 from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM! Thanks for all your support of St Charles athletics!

[Pancake Breakfast Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Vivat Jesus!  
Justin Purdy



### **Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree News**



Sir Knights,

In the month of November our activities included participation in the Veterans Day parade. I was disappointed that few of our members participated in the event. I will make sure we do a better job for future events. Our regular meeting night, November 11, was Veterans Day. We held a Mass to honor our veterans and to pray for the deceased members of our assembly. Both the Mass and the meeting were well attended.

Sir Knight, Ed Ort, a new member of our honor guard had participated in 3 events. That qualified him for the \$200 reimbursement toward the purchase of his 4<sup>th</sup> Degree uniform.

I have been a long-time member of the fourth degree but only attended meetings off and on. What has always impressed me about the meetings is our opening and closing ceremonies. It reminds us of our patriotism, to honor our flag, respect lawful authority, practice charity, brotherly love, follow the teachings of the Church, and devotion to the Cross of Christ. At every meeting we are reminded of our mission. I hope you can join us for our meetings if you are able. If you cannot attend, join us in spirit for these noble principles. **Our December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be replaced with our Christmas Dinner at St. Aloysius gym. Join us if you can.**

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.](#)  
[The Patriotic Rosary begins at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30.](#)

### **FOURTH DEGREE FRIAR'S PHRASES**

In the name of God, and in solidarity with the Most Reverend William J. Lori, Supreme Chaplain, and in fraternity with the members Anthony Wayne Assembly; grace and blessing be with all of us.

At the request of the Faithful Navigator, we are launching this communication tool; and I am invited to add a few words. It will be my endeavor to comment on one of three topics: current assembly activities, church or K of C news, or on church teaching. I hope that these comments will prove to be interesting and helpful. We shall see!!

On this inaugural note I remind us that the Fourth Degree of our Order is dedicated to the love of Our Republic; it is the patriotic degree. Last week the Bishops of the United States, in their annual November meeting, passed a resolution that next year, as we mark the two-hundred fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, that we should consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is my thought that as the next months unfold toward that anniversary, we as an assembly should plan a special gathering for mass or for a prayer gathering to which we invite the wider community to make that dedication. What do you think?

We must continue to be the strong Right Arm of Mother Church.

FATHER WILLIAM J. KUMMER  
 FAITHFUL FRIAR





## 40 Days for Life

This year's fall 40 Days for Life was scheduled from September 24 – November 2. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, day 23 of the campaign, the Knights of Council 451 joined other members of the St. Charles Parish community in witness and prayer at the corner of Lake Avenue and Maycrest Drive, location of the Planned Parenthood Center. As stated in the 40 Days for Life website, abortion is the leading cause of death in the world, taking more than 50 million lives every year.

Abortion became effectively illegal in Indiana on August 1, 2023, with limited exceptions. Previously, abortion was legal up to 20 weeks. In the first full year of Indiana's near-total abortion ban {2024}, the state reported only 146 abortions, a 98% decrease from the 9,529 performed in 2022. The 2024 abortions were all performed under the law's limited exceptions.

Let us not fall complacent as so many innocent victims continue to die in this country. We must fight this battle with the strongest weapon we have – our prayers asking Our Blessed Mother for help and Our Father for forgiveness. Thanks to all who made the time to be present. Some of those who are not pictured below include: Tom Richter, Russ and Kathy Suever, and I'm sure many others. Our apologies.



Dick Martin, Tom Christle and Jim Keefer



Guest, Pat Augustyn, Steve & Ann Gillig



Tim & Mary Becker



Bryce Hall, Bevin Hall, Pat Vought, Shane Hall, Tish Sack and Sue Miller



Herb & Marge Halley



Bevin Hall, Bryce Hall, Pat Vought, Sue Miller, Pat Augustyn, Darlene Simpson, Rich Augustyn and Shawn Hall



Tom & Diane Keefer



Anna Laisure, Stacey Huneck, Chris & Regina Huston and kids.



Photos provided by Dennis Redding

## Veterans Day Mass/Final Roll Call 2025

Council 451 held its annual Veterans Memorial Mass, officiated by Fr. Bobby Krisch, on Tuesday November 11th honoring all Veterans and those Brother Knights who passed this past year. The funeral bell was rung for Sir Knight Don Luther, Sir Knight Jerry Kessens, David Abbott, Richard Fifelski, Leonard Keller, Richard Stieglitz, Anthonny Yagodinski, Thomas Seaclyff and Lynn Meyer. Please pray for all departed brothers of Council 451. The council thanks Brother Knights Joseph Tratnyek, Dennis Redding, Bruce Bennett and Frank Koehl for their participation in this important remembrance of our veterans and Brother Knights.

### VETERAN'S PRAYER

OH LORD OUR GOD  
DEFENDER AND HEALER OF MANKIND,  
REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR  
VETERANS  
WHO HAVE SERVED YOU  
AND THEIR COUNTRY BRAVELY.  
HELP THE VETERANS STILL ALIVE  
TO SERVE YOU PROUDLY.  
AND GIVE TO OUR FALLEN BRETHREN  
ETERNAL REST,  
SO THAT WE MAY ONE DAY  
BE REUNITED IN HEAVEN,  
WORSHIPPING YOU TOGETHER  
FOREVER WITHOUT END.  
AMEN



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

Each year the Knights of Columbus Council 451 honors America's Veterans for their service, sacrifice and dedication to our Country.

Additionally, our Council remembers our departed Brother Knights with a final Membership Roll Call

Sir Knight Don Luther

Sir Knight Jerry Kessens

David Abbott

Richard Fifelski

Leonard Keller

Richard Stieglitz

Anthonny Yagodinski

Thomas Seaclyff

Lynn Meyer



Dennis Redding and Bruce Bennett, Flag Folding Ceremony



Frank Koehl - honoring fallen brother knights.



Joe Tratnyek - honoring fallen brothers knights



Dennis Redding - Lecturer for Mass.



Fr. Bobby Kirsch - celebrant of Mass.



Back Row: Leo Miller, Leo Kuntz, Jim Yoder, Bruce Bennett, Russ Suever, Richard Wallace.  
Front Row: Unknown Veteran, Joe Tratnyek, Ed Lumbomirski Jr., Leo Banks



Photos provided by Joe Mikolay



## Exemplification Ceremony

On Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> an in-person exemplification ceremony was held to officially receive five new members to Council 451. The exemplification ceremony is one of the most cherished traditions in the Knights of Columbus organization. Candidates in the presence of family and, soon to be brother knights, pledge their loyalty to Christ, His church and to family.

Council 451 has a rich history dating back to October 15, 1899, when it was chartered as the first council in Fort Wayne with just 36 men. Today Council 451 boasts a membership of over 380 Knights. It is with members such as these five men that our council will continue to thrive and lead us to a promising future for years to come. Our new members are: Father Jery Madathiparambil Paul, Sean Bennett, Keith Harris, Doyle Minix, and Joe Potthoff.



Joe Tratnyek was the Presiding Officer



Presenter of Charity was Doug Baisinger



Joe Mikolay was the presenter of Unity



Jack Wehrly demonstrates the importance of Unity



Sean Digan was the presenter of Fraternity



GK Dennis Holp swearing in the candidates



Candidates are presented with their Rosaries



Deacon Rob Lortie with the closing prayer and blessing



Newly invested Knights: Doyle Minix, Father Jery Madathiparambil Paul, Sean Bennett, Joe Potthoff and Keith Harris



New 3rd Degree Knights with the Council 451 Exemplification Team and other brother knights in attendance on November 21, 2025

## 4th Degree

Nov 9, 2025 the 4th Degree held an exemplification at St. There's Little Flower church in South Bend. They received in 21 new Sir Knights to the 4th Degree.



Candidates processing in for the ceremony-

4th Degree Honor Guard



Honor Guard leading in the candidates

Group picture of new Sir Knights and Honor Guard and other 4th Degree members.



*Photos provided by Doug Baisinger*

## Teen Retreat Nov 22, 2025

Council 451, when to St. Felix's in Huntington and served lunch to over 60 teens and adult mentors.



Gene Delaney and Tom Richter cooking the sloppy Joe's



Tom Ryan and Tom Rickter mixing the lemonade.



Kitchen crew, Joe Mikolay, Doug Baisinger, Gene Delany, Tom Ryan, Tom Rickter, and Joe Potthoff.



Father Bobbie handing out plates.



Pictures of teens enjoying a good lunch.



Teens going through serving line.



New knight Fr. Jerry getting his lunch as he chats with Tom Rickter.



*Photos provided by Doug Baisinger*



**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 699-0544

**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 699-0544

**Fraternal co-Director**

Tim Isch 715-5984

**Life Director**

Kirk Crosby (865) 399-3052

**Family Directors**

Sam Slinger 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](mailto:Knights451fw@gmail.com)

or send a note to:

P.O. 15296

Fort Wayne, IN

46885-5296.

Thank you!!!



Your Insurance Agent  
For The Knights of Columbus Insurance is:  
**Nicholas Goralczyk**  
574-457-8111  
[nick.goralczyk@kofc.org](mailto:nick.goralczyk@kofc.org)