

The Shield

February 2026

Knights of Columbus
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451
P.O. Box 15296,
Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296
Phone: 260-438-3112
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Grand Knights Message

Brother Knights:

Here's hoping you all survived the recent snowmageddon. Some may have stayed in the warmth of their homes. Others perhaps traveled to a warmer climate to avoid it all. Still others may have put on an extra layer (or two!), grabbed a sled, snowboard or skis and enjoyed it! Snow and cold weather typically precede the start of a new year. As Knights, our mission continues despite "bad weather". The needs of our families, parish and community aren't "weather" related. We need to provide time, talent and treasure when it's needed, as our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney would have done.

We have a number of opportunities for our 387 members to become engaged. The March for Life and Free Throw competition may be behind us as you read this. Upcoming are the Borromeo Bash and annual Fish Fry, both raising funds for executing projects for our parish community. Another of our Council/parish blood drives is on the horizon as well. Check out our calendar of events at kofc451.org to view all Council 451 upcoming events and use the imbedded links to sign up when volunteers are needed. Be sure to reach out to an officer or Brother Knight if you need help getting connected.

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
Grand Knight, Council 451

	February		March
2	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	2	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
4	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	4	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
7	Borromeo Bash	6	Fish Fry
8	Knights Night at the Komets	24	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
14	Blood Drive		
21	Rekindle the Fire		
24	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights		



Deceased Member

Please remember **Wilfred Hackbush** and all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.



Please Welcome two new members. Michael Jolgren is our newest new Brother Knight and Richard Claycomb who has rejoined Council 451. Council 451 is glad to have both men decided to be part of our Council and hopping to see them at our meetings and activities.



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, February 24, 2026



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.



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 February 4, 2026 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

Dues statements for 2026 were mailed out to all members on January 8, 2026.

If you have not received a statement by now, please contact me so a replacement statement can be sent to you. Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated. You can send your payment to our P.O. Box, drop off at the Church business office, put in the collection baskets addressed to K of C at any weekend Mass or bring to our next meeting on February 2, 2026. If you are experiencing a financial hardship at this time and do not think that you will be able to pay your dues, please contact Doug Baisinger at 260-450-0804 or email me dbaisinger@gmail.com.



Reminder:

The 1st Blood Drive of 2026 is scheduled for Saturday February 14th.



Happy February Birthdays

Joseph Barile
Phil Bender
John Berghoff
Bryson Braasch
Joseph Clauser
Timothy Didier
Daniel Federspiel
John Federspiel
Michael Highlen
Brian Hill
Thomas Carlisle Hope
Dan Jordan
Phillip Kramer
Timothy Leffler
William Loomis
Joe Pothoff
Mark Robbins
William Schreck
Nathan Steigmeyer
Bradley Stresemann
Cecil Teete
Richard Trahin
Erick Vorst
Patrick Welch
Nick Wharton





Can Crushers Schedule

Jan 25- Jan 31 : Joe Mikolay
Feb 01- Feb 07 : Eric Seely
Feb 08- Feb 14 : Chuck Smith
Feb 15- Feb 21 : OPEN
Feb 22- Feb 28 : OPEN



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.



Anthony Wayne Assembly 239 Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

It is still very early in the year but there is a lot happening and much to prepare for. For you coffee drinkers, we now have a Keurig coffee maker donated by John Murray. We provided an Honor Guard for our bishop's visit to Bishop Luers HS on Jan. 14th. There was discussion about participating in Wreaths Across America, which will involve placing wreaths at veterans' graves at Lindenwood cemetery next December. There was some discussion on buying golf shirts with the 4th degree emblem. When details and pricing are determined that information will be made available to all members.

This year we will be marking the 250th anniversary of our country. Our declaration of independence from outside rulers and the establishment of our own country ruled by Divinely established human rights was a bold statement. It has worked exceptionally well. But it needs to be faithfully guarded. To mark this year our bishops are calling for the consecration of our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Leo 13th in 1899 consecrated the entire world to the Sacred Heart to combat the secularism threatening civil society. He was deeply concerned about the disregard for sacred law, the removal of Christian faith, and the banishment of God himself from the earth. We must do all we can to safeguard our Catholic faith and our country by supporting our bishops' efforts.

Our next meeting will be February 10th with the rosary at 7 and the meeting at 7:30.

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

**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

Have you ever been working on writing, maybe something important, and suddenly your focus is somewhere else? I am sure we all have! Maybe, because it is near Saint Valentine Day, while thinking about what great things to write about Anthony Wayne Assembly, a truly romantic story came to mind. It was about Sarah Chen. She is now rated as one of the world's best pianists. However, she was once a very shy and not a popular high school student, and she was thought to be one of slowest pupils in her grade level, even in music class. Nonetheless, through self-determination she took a great risk; she played for a school recital an extremely difficult piece of Chopin's music, The Revolutionary Etude. It changed her life of shyness to international acclaim. It is a great human story!

Now we could ask, what does this have to do with our Assembly? Probably not much, but it could provide an example for us. We have been talking and discussing doing several new projects; some asking that will stretch beyond our usual parameters. The shy girl became a world-famous star; our stardom among the Fourth Degree Assemblies in Indiana awaits if we are willing to take a small risk.

Continue to pray for each other, and for the canonization of Father McGivney.
FATHER WILLIAM J. KUMMER
FAITHFUL FRIAR

Sacramental Travel Kit

On Sunday January 4th, The Epiphany of the Lord, Msgr. Tom and Fr. Jery were presented a Sacramental Travel Kit. The kit was donated on behalf of the Knights of Columbus #451. The travel kit will assist our priests as they travel to those in need and in emergency situations.



Pictured:
Gene Delaney,
Joe Mikolay,
Msgr. Tom,
Doug Baisinger
and Fr. Jery



Photos provided by Joe Mikolay

Vocations Award 2024

On behalf of Council 451, Dennis Holp, Grand Knight, receives the Vocations Award - 2024 from Dave Barrett, District Deputy. The award was presented at the January meeting in appreciation for outstanding service to our seminarians.

Photos provided by Dennis Redding



Knights who served as science fair judges: Joe Keefer, Vince Lochbihler, Jim Yoder, Dr. Jack Wehrly and Dennis Redding.

Science Fair 2026

Judging for the 2026 St. Charles School fair was held January 22nd, 2026. Students from the 4th and 7th grades presented their projects in person to the judges. As judges listened and reviewed the 174 projects, they were asked to identify a selective list of candidates to be considered for regional competition. This proved to be a challenge given the number of impressive experiments and scientific findings. In each case, the student met with a pair of judges to explain their project and answer questions giving the student a more complete experience. Knights volunteering as judges included: Joe Keefer, Vince Lochbihler, Dennis Redding, Dr. Jack Wehrly and Jim Yoder.

Photo provided by Dennis Redding

Communications Corner

"Council Website"

To get to the council website simply enter kof451.org into any browser. You DO NOT have to enter www or http. Illustration #1 depicts what you will see upon opening the website. Note there are several areas of interest you can explore. Today let's take a look at only the calendar. On the right side you will see the council calendar. It lists all upcoming events for the council. If you would like to find more info on an event, i.e. sign up to volunteer, event details... simply click on the event. It will expand, Illustration #2. There you will find details and links to sign up. You can even add the event to your personal calendar.

Hope this tip helps, Joe

Knights of Columbus - Council 451

About the Knights of Columbus

Founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., and a group of parishioners. Their intent? To bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families.

Join St. Charles Parish's Council 451

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Join St. Charles Parish's Council 451

Council 451 is the first Knights of Columbus council chartered in Fort Wayne. We meet monthly at St. Charles Parish. Our unofficial motto is "451 Gets it Done!" You will find us supporting our parish activities, raising money for local charities and serving people in our community.

Upcoming Council 451 Events

Jan - Jun 2026	
28 JAN, WED	Novena for Life (Day 7/9) St. Charles Ca...
29 JAN, THU	Novena for Life (Day 8/9) St. Charles Ca...
30 JAN, FRI	Novena for Life (Day 9/9) St. Charles Ca...
1 FEB, SUN	Parish Free Throw Contest St. Charles ...
2 FEB, MON	6:45pm KofC Monthly Meeting

Borromeo Bash

Saturday, February 7 · 4:30 – 11:30pm

 Ceruti's Catering, Inc., 6601 Innovation Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818, USA

 As we do every year, Borromeo Bash will need quite a few volunteers to pull the event off on February 7th at Ceruti's on Innovation Blvd. You can find the link to sign up below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/g0/70A054CA4A723A0FF2->

 [More details](#)

 [Copy to my calendar](#)

26 JUL, 2026

Website Events GMT-05

+

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 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

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!!!



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