

# The Shield

## January 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:

By now the flurry of Christmas is behind us, but let's remember the true reason for the season: the birth of Christ and keep that feeling going. All the wrapping paper, ribbon and bows pale in contrast to the true gift we were given by God, His Son, who ultimately sacrificed His life for us.

2026 is upon us, a new year gifted to us by God. How will you use this gift? Need some suggestions? Our K of C Council 451 will present numerous opportunities to give back to the parish community throughout the upcoming year. What skills might you have to contribute to the cause? Get involved and join your brother Knights, lend someone a hand, and get the satisfaction of knowing your effort matters and is appreciated. But be sure you also make time to enjoy yourself! Monitor the Shield and your email for news on upcoming social events. We have a Komet hockey game in the works on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Signup info will follow. Our annual basketball free-throw competition is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. We'll need volunteers to help with the success of this event.

A request: We have the 8:15 am Mass on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> on our 451 calendar as our monthly "social" Mass and breakfast. It is also the Mass being said for Sir Knight Don Luther, who passed away this year. Can we have really good turnout by Knights to show our respect and appreciation for all that Don and all other Knights who have gone before us have contributed to our Council?

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp  
Grand Knight, Council 451



	January		February
5	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	2	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
7	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	4	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
22	Science Fair Judging at St. Charles School	8	Komet hockey game
22-30	Novena for Life after 6:30pmMass	24	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
27	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights		
31	Allen County "Right to Life March"		

## ***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.

**\*\* Don Luther – entered Eternal Life on 8/20/2025  
– Mass 1/27/2026, 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!

Thanks to all the Knights who volunteered on Sunday December 7 to make the Athletic Pancake Breakfast a huge success. Without your help this would not be possible! Go Cardinals!

Vivat Jesus!

**Justin Purdy**

*Athletic Director*

Saint Charles Borromeo School



### **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 Faghil, 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.***



## **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, January 27, 2026

## **Gibault Christmas**

Council 451 thanks all of the members that donated Christmas gifts and money for the children living at Gibault Children Services in Terre Haute, IN.

Council sent a check to Gibault in the amount of \$2,070.00 to go along with the gifts. You are a very generous group Brother Knight's, thank you all again.



All the Christmas gifts donated by the members of Council 451 to be sent to Gibault.



Picture of Council 451's gifts and gifts from 6 other councils loaded into a trailer to be delivered to Gibault.

*Photos provided by Steve Lutz*

## **Happy January Birthdays**

Zeljko Antunovic	Ronald Helmkamp
Douglas Baisinger	Paul Hibler
Bruce Bennett	Philip Hilger
Kevin Bergman	Phillip Huneck
David Bessesen	Craig James
Mark Cheshier	Joseph Keane
Patrick Digan	James Keefer
Michael Friend	Larry McChessney
Jason Gabet	Robert Mondok
Anthony Galuoppo	Stephen Moran
John Garber	Jay Nelson
Fred Gonzales	Adam Osenga
Bevin Hall	Aaron Palkovic
Bryce Hall	Tim Quanolt
Herb Halley	Dennis Redding
Thomas Harning	Steven Rennels





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

If you would like to volunteer your time to help crush can please contact **Jason Gabet** at 260-403-6230 or [gabet60@aol.com](mailto:gabet60@aol.com).

## Can Crushers Schedule

Dec 28 - Jan 03	:	Jason Gabet
Jan 04 - Jan 10	:	Dave Lothamer
Jan 11 - Jan 17	:	OPEN
Jan 18- Jan 24	:	OPEN
Jan 25- Jan 31	:	OPEN
Feb 01- Feb 07	:	OPEN
Feb 08- Feb 14	:	Chuck Smith



## 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 January 7, 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.



## Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

I want to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. This past month we held our annual Christmas social. It was very well attended with plenty of food and an entertaining gift exchange.

With the coming of the new year our Assembly Faithful Comptroller, John Murray, will soon start sending out the dues notices. Included in the dues notice is a request for donation to our various charitable causes. Many of you include an offering to help our assembly support charitable causes and we are very grateful for your support. This past year we were able to give **\$500** to each of **two military seminarians**, **\$1,000** to **Helping Hands**, **\$1,000** to **Hope Center**, **\$1,000** to **Mother's Hope**, **\$500** to the **Honor Flight**, and **\$500** to **Shepherd's House**. If you are able, please add a little extra to your dues for our Assembly's charitable causes.

Last month in our December newsletter our Faithful Friar, Fr. Bill Kummer, called our attention to our Bishop's Conference plans to consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was our own bishop, Kevin Rhoades, who proposed this to his fellow bishops. We will discuss this more at our next meeting. It would be a great blessing for our country as we celebrate 250 years of freedom. What could be better for Catholic Patriots to do than to consecrate our beloved country to the Heart of Jesus.

**Our next meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup> with the rosary at 7 and the meeting at 7:30.**

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

The year of our Lord 2026 has dawned upon us; it is that time and season for review and resolutions. As one of the oldest Fourth Degree Assemblies in our country it should be a time when we do the analysis of where we have been, and what we have done; but more importantly it is a time to ask where we are going? Our Assembly, as we all know, is not young and youthful energy is lacking, but none of us regardless of age are exempt from working to further the goals of the Knights of Columbus. We stand for the Goodness of humankind, uphold the virtue of Patriotism, and proudly proclaim our Catholic Faith.

So, what will this new year bring for us?

One of the things we might do is to have a renewed dedication to personal holiness. An idea might be to consider, with me, Our Holy Father's intention for this month. He is suggesting that we use the Readings and the study of Scriptures to help us spiritually, and to use that Spirit to build a better world. The Pope's intention: "For Prayer with The Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church!"

Also, of course, this is the year of the Synod. Many of us have already participated in our parishes' consultation and found them beneficial; we now pray for the delegates so that our diocese will emerge from this Synod a more vibrant and dedicated local church ready to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Have Happy and Blessed New Year,  
FATHER WILLIAM J. KUMMER  
FAITHFUL FRIAR

## Christmas Party 2025



This is now the fifth year Council 451 has hosted a Christmas dinner event. The banquet hall was decked out in bright red and green table clothes, 30 beautiful red poinsettia plants, lighted Christmas figures and music of the season resounded throughout. Coordinating the kitchen activities was Gene Delaney with assistance from Jack and Sis Wehrly. The Italian menu was catered from Salvatori's and included baked ziti, chicken alfredo with clamshell pasta, lasagna, house salad, garlic & herb breadsticks. Capping off the meal was an assortment of delicious desserts. The bar featured wine, beer and other drinks.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Tom and Diane Keefer presenting challenging Christmas trivia questions for a chance to win Lindt Classic Recipe Milk Chocolate bars. A short interlude was taken and all joined in for some Christmas caroling. As the night came to a close, the ladies were gifted with a poinsettia.

Merry Christmas to all!



Our kitchen staff Sis & Jack Wehrly assisting event coordinator, Gene Delaney.



Monsignor Tom Shoemaker and Father Jery lead the line for the meal.



## Christmas Party 2025 continued...



Photos provided  
by Dennis Redding



### Santa Comes to St. Charles



As he has for years, Santa made a special stop at St. Charles to visit with the many children lined up to talk to him about their wish lists. The event was held on December 7<sup>th</sup> after all the Sunday morning Masses. While the delicious pancakes and sausages are a big hit, nothing compares to the opportunity to visit with the grand elf himself. This was all made possible thanks to the Athletic Committee with assistance of some 30+ Knights and their wives. Just as important, the event provides an opportunity for parents and adults of all ages to meet and visit with friends and family. Our thanks to all who worked hard to continue this beautiful tradition.

Photos provided by Dennis Redding



Kevin Hoersten and  
Steve Bentz



Chris Hartman and Tim  
Slater



Joe Tratnyek



Alex Mayer and  
Joe Potthoff



Nick Cheever and  
Tom Lothamer



Matt Smith



Chris Kauffman and Sam  
Mathews



Steve Lutz and  
Martin Sweigert



Jim Pifko and  
Sean Bennett



Vince Lochbihler



Sam Mathews and  
Justin Purdy



Mike Ripley, Jim Pifko  
and Dennis Redding



Doyle Minix, David  
Bokhart, Jack Wehrly  
and Kevin Heimann



Mike Eddy, Bruce  
Bennett, Adam Osenga  
and Jeff Rose



Ed Schieman and  
Tom Ryan 5

## 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

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)