

# The Shield

**July 2025**

Knights of Columbus  
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451  
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Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296  
Phone: 260-493-1018  
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## Grand Knights Message

June is turning out to be another busy month for Council 451. We began with the awards dinner on June 2nd. Check out the article and pictures included in this month's Shield.

Desk painting began again this summer with eight Knights spending 2-3 hours three mornings a week preparing and painting approximately 90 second grade desks. So far things are going well.


The Council is again assisting Fr. Bobby with his Bibles and Burgers program every Thursday evening this summer. Six or more Knights help set up, cook the burgers and then help clean up & put things away.

This past Saturday, 7 Knights removed 12 wheelbarrows of dirt and replaced the dirt with 2 tons of rock. And next Saturday 5 or 6 Knights will be spending the morning at a Habitat for Humanity building site. I almost forgot. On Saturday June 7th our latest blood drive was held at Good Shepherd Church.

This will be my last GK Message since I will be turning over the reigns to our newly elected GK, Dennis Holp, at the July meeting. I want to thank all my Brother Knights for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Council as Grand Knight. It was a rewarding and satisfying experience. We have a great Council!

Vivat Jesus,

Jack Wehrly, Grand Knight Council 451

|    | July   |    | August  |
|----|--|----|---|
| 2  | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon   | 4  | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center                  |
| 4  | Independence Day  | 6  | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon                            |
| 7  | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center   | 11 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights |
| 14 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights  | 26 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights |
| 19 | Habitat for Humanity Build   |    |   |
| 22 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights  |    |   |
|    |  |    |   |



### Deceased Member

Please remember **David L. Abbott, Richard Filelski** and all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.



We want to welcome **Shane Hall, Thomas Carlisle Hope, Michael Vanderpool & Kevin Zehr** who joined our Council in the past month.

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



### 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, July 14 and/or July 22, 2025



### 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 July 2, 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

Great day on May 27 with 8:15 AM Mass, followed by good food, fun and fellowship at Lakeside Cafe!

The biggest turnout that any of us can remember for our monthly Knights event.

Glad the Sun/moon & stars all aligned for our 2 Priests, 2 Deacons and Summer Seminarian to all attend.



*Photos provided by Steve Lutz*

### Happy July Birthdays



|                  |                       |                |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Brian Ault       | Anthony Hasselschwert | Carl Sabo      |
| Tim Becker       | Kevin Hoersten        | Ross A. Sawyer |
| Michael Bessesen | Jeff Hoffman          | Erik Seely     |
| David Bokhart    | Timothy Isch          | Garett Seibert |
| Dan Bollard      | Thomas Keefer         | Peter Shutt    |
| Mark Cheshier    | Rev. Robert Krisch    | Donald Smith   |
| Gabriel Coelho   | James LaMaster II     | Michael Smith  |
| Peter Coronato   | Mark Leeuw            | Eugene Snyder  |
| Kirk Crosby      | Clyde A. Nix          | Adam Sordelet  |
| Rev. Peter Deede | Paul O'Shaughnessey   | Gregory Vorst  |
| Joseph Deprisco  | Ryan Quandt           | Jason Wampler  |
| Al Diefenbach    | Steve Reinhart        | Jack Wehrly    |
| Thomas Gabet     | James Robertson, Jr.  |                |

## Can Crushers Schedule



**June 29-July 5: Tim Slater**

**July 6-12: OPEN**

**July 13-19: OPEN**

**July 20-26: OPEN**

**July 27-Aug. 2: 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](mailto:gabet60@aol.com).

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



## **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 Fri 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, will need 18-20 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 as well. Thank you very much for your help. Frank Koehl Ph 260-466-7301, [Jkoehl603@frontier.com](mailto:Jkoehl603@frontier.com)



## **Habitat for Humanity Builds 2025**

Council 451 will have two upcoming Habitat for Humanity Build Days this summer. They will be at homes in Downtown Fort Wayne. We will need 5 volunteers each of the two days from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Subway Lunch will be provided at the end of the shifts. The second Build Day will be on Saturday July 19. If you are interested in volunteering for this very rewarding cause, please contact Justin Purdy via email at [purjd01@gmail.com](mailto:purjd01@gmail.com).



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



Sir Knights,

I have been elected as the new Navigator for our Anthony Wayne Assembly. I have been a member of the K of C for 55 years and a 4<sup>th</sup> degree for 37 years. Served as Grand Knight in 2 different councils and in the State Council in various positions. I hope to be able to use some of this experience in our Assembly. I hope you will join me in making our Assembly thrive.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day, our members gathered in a light mist for the flag retirement ceremony. We had 446 flags including one 50 X 80 foot flag to ceremoniously incinerate. Thanks to all who participated and a big thank you to John Murray for setting it all up and staying late to finish all the flags.

Our next meeting will be an informal meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to plan the calendar for next year. All officers are asked to attend and anyone else are welcome to join us.

For God, Country, and Neighbor

Mike Blankman

Faithful Navigator, Anthony Wayne Assembly 239

*Meetings are held at the Saint Mother T. Guerin Chapel basement on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM.*



## Awards Dinner 2025



The meeting for the month of June was a special time for Council 451.

The Awards/Recognition dinner was again held offsite at Goeglein's event Hall on Maysville Rd. This event is held not only to recognize and award certain people, but as a way for the brother Knights, and their wives and guest to celebrate another successful year for Council 451.

The evening began with an invocation from Our Pastor Fr. Tom Shoemaker followed by a delicious dinner presented by a very courteous Goeglein staff. After dinner I introduced those members of the head table: Sir Knight Craig Hanusin - Past State Deputy, Mellisa Reed- Director of fund development for Gibault, District Deputy Dr. Tom Ryan and his wife Lady Madonna, Past Grand Knight Dennis Redding and his wife Lady Jill and my wife Lady Sis Wehrly. I thanked Madonna Ryan and Jill Redding for providing the lovely centerpieces.

In keeping with one reason for the evenings' activities I then recognized our hard working Pastor Fr. Tom whose promoting of the Knights is essential to our success, CeCe Dunderman who helps the Knights with room assignments and bulletin deadlines and Bob Carrol, our parish administrator, and his wife Lianne, who along with Fr. Tom and other members of the staff allow the Knights to use the Parish facilities for all the events we hold. I then recognized the Past Grand Knights who were present: Don Luther, John Higgins, Greg Sult Dr. Tom Ryan and Dennis Redding. Also, Steve Lutz and Joe Tratnyek, who were not present. The Council is indebted to them for their service and many contributions. Next, I introduced all the Council Officers and Directors present, and new members Thomas Hope and Shane Hall, his wife Jamie and potential member Mike Arciga and his wife Erica.

Craig Hanusin then gifted us with a few inspirational words of wisdom after which we used the opportunity for a photo op showing the contributions the Council made to the Indiana Special Olympics and the State Culture of Life Ultrasound Program this past month.

Dennis Redding, Council Awards Chairman, then presented Shining Armor Awards to the following very deserving Knights: Tracy Collins and Alex Maher. Also receiving this award but not present here tonight are Jeff Henry and Jason Wampler.

Dennis then presented the Family of the Year Award to Mike and Abbey Ripley with their three sons Maximus, Felix and Lennox. We are honored to have such a wonderful family as a part of our Council and thankful for their involvement in so many parish activities.

And finally, Dennis presented the Knight of the Year Award to Council Chaplain Deacon Rob Lortie, whose contributions to the Council and the parish have been greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have Deacon Rob and his wife Vicki supporting Council 451 and the parish.

I want to add a special thank you to Dennis Redding for acting as awards Chairman. As always, he puts his heart and soul into his work.

Mellissa Reed then updated us on the happenings at Gibault after which the Council presented her with a \$1,500 check for Gibault, bringing our total to just over \$6,000 for the year. We are always honored to have Mellissa make the four-hour drive from Terre Haute to be with us.

In my closing statement, I emphasized how my 2-year term as Grand Knight had gone by quickly and that I will be ever grateful for the opportunity to work with such a generous and special group of men. Past Grand Knight, Dennis Redding then presented me with the traditional Burgandy Blazer, and I thanked all the Knights and their wives who have helped make Council 451 such a vibrant and active organization.

After reciting our prayer for the canonization of Blessed Micheal McGivney, Fr. Tom gave the final blessing, and the meeting was adjourned. This narrative will qualify as the meeting minutes for June.

Vivat Jesus,  
Jack Wehrly, GK



Bruce Bennett and wife  
checking in guests to  
Annual dinner



Fr. Tom saying  
grace before the  
dinner

*Photos provided by Doug Baisinger*



## Awards Dinner 2025 cont.



District Deputy Tom Ryan, PGN John Higgins & Carl Sabo



Mallisa Reed from Gibault giving an up date on Gibault



Joe Mikolay & Tom Keffer



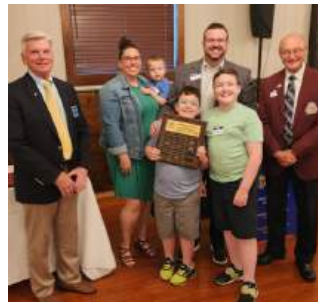
Jack presenting check to Mallisa Reed for \$1500.00 to Gibault Children's Service



Dennis Redding presenting GN Jack Wehrly with His PGN Burgundy jacket



Jack presenting Shining Armor Award to Chris Collins



Jack & Dennis presenting Family of the Year to the Michael Ripley family



PSD Craig Haus



Jack Wehrly & Dennis Redding presenting Knight of the Year to Deacon Rob Lortie



Jack presenting Shining Armor Award to Alex Maher.



pictures of members and spouses attending dinner



Norma Baisinger, Cece Dunderman, Mike & Erica Arciga (potential member)



Doug Baisinger & Joe Mikolay presenting PSD Craig Hanusin check for \$1100.00 for Special Olympics & ultrasound machine



GN Jack Wehrly greeting new member Shane Hall and wife

*Photos provided by Doug Baisinger*



## Knights Helping Neighbors

The Knights continue to receive requests for assistance from fellow parishioners and people in the community, primarily by way of our St. Vincent de Paul conference. We view these projects as opportunities to serve others while spending time with brother knights in performing rewarding activities. In the past two months, we helped a senior resident vacate his apartment, delivered furniture to a mother with four children, trimmed heavy branches from a tree in a playground area and landscaped two entrances to St. Charles Church that were experiencing soil erosion resulting in dirt being carried into the building. The entrances reworked were the west doors entering the chapel and south doors across from the rectory. If you pass these entrances, you may notice the dirt has been removed and replaced with gravel hopefully improving runoff.



Tom Richter and Dennis Redding dropping off donated items to a local charity.



Dennis Redding, David Lothamer, Tom Lothamer and resident delivering a couch to a family in need.



Jim Keefer and Dennis Redding clearing trimmed wood with the help of one of the residents.



A picture of one of the entrances before.



Same entrance after improvements.



Tom Hope, Andy Bernhard, Tom Richter digging out the area by the chapel doors for placement of gravel.



Tom Keefer and Jack Wehrly working on other side of the chapel doors



David Lothamer, Dennis Redding and Andy Bernhard working on the south entrance.

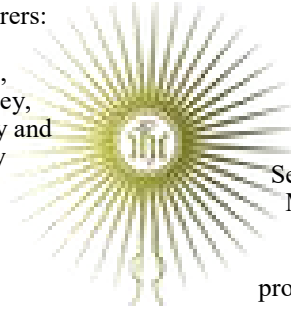
*Photos provided by Dennis Redding*

## Feast of Corpus Christi

On Sunday, June 22, we celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. As is tradition, there was an outside procession after the 11:00am Mass with Father Bobby carrying the monstrance. The Knights were honored to serve as bearers of the canopy and honor guard.



Canopy bearers:  
Knights  
Pat Morello,  
Gene Delaney,  
Jack Wehrly and  
Justin Purdy



Seminary  
Michael  
Florin  
led the  
procession



Sir Knights  
Doug Baisinger  
and Dennis  
Redding served  
as fourth degree  
honor guards.



Participants  
as they make  
their way  
around the  
church.

*Photos provided by Sis Wehrly and Jill Redding*

## 4th Degree Honor Guard



Honor Guard for Robert Hartinstein funeral  
June 18, 2025



Left to right: Mike Prager, Mark Braun,  
Doug Baisinger, Pet Duran, Richard  
Burton, Loren Nichter, Ken Wyss,  
Mark Stieglitz, Mike Blankman,  
Dennis Redding.



Left to right:  
Keith Burns, Mike  
Brandell, Pete Duran

*Photos provided by Doug Baisinger*



The winner of the 2025  
St. Charles Knights of Columbus  
Scholarship is **Nicholas James  
Steigmeyer**. Nicholas will  
receive \$750 applied to his  
tuition at Bishop Dwenger HS.  
Congratulations Nickolas on a  
job well done!



**2025-2026 Officers**  
Council 451

**Chaplain**

Deacon Robert Lortie

**Grand Knight**

Dennis Holp 493-1018

**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**

Ed Tobey 602-2609

**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 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)