

The Shield

July 2026

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

Brother Knights:

We'll be celebrating Independence Day on July 4th. The Declaration stated that all of us are endowed with certain inalienable rights, bestowed upon us by God, our Creator. One of those rights cited specifically was the right to life. As Catholics, we hold the belief that "life" begins at conception and ends at natural death. As Knights we are actively committed to defending the unborn, most notably displayed during January at the Right to Life March. But our defenses need to be strong and maintained throughout the year. Our "right" is worthy of more than a month of effort!

June was a busy month. We celebrated with our Knights and special guests and recognized the notable performance of many of our Knights at our Awards Dinner. We held another successful blood drive, potentially helping up to 111 people. We said goodbye to our Fr. Bobby and hosted a farewell reception on his behalf. He'll be deeply missed, but we welcome Fr. Drew as he arrives at St. Charles. We look forward to working with him. We will have staffed a Habitat for Humanity build project, helping a family have a house become a home. We have the reputation as the "go to" organization when there's a need for time and talent in our parish community, many times without being asked!

We'll be inducting our FY26/27 officers at our July meeting. I'll again mention that all but our Trustees serve one-year terms and encourage any Brother Knights interested in upgrading their involvement within 451 to let me know. I plan to initiate a nominating committee to evaluate and recommend future officers and also plan to routinely send out brief descriptions of the various duties for your officers, hopefully to wet appetites! We will be having some notable officer "retirements" soon, so we'll need help in ensuring "451 gets it done!"

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
 Grand Knight, Council 451



| | July | | August |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon | 1 | Blood Drive at the Red Cross Blood Center |
| 6 | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center | 3 | 6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center |
| 23 | Knights night out at the Tin Caps baseball game | 5 | Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon |
| 25 | Habitat for Humanity Build #2 | 25 | 8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights |
| 28 | 8:15 AM Mass for Roger Steup followed with breakfast with brother Knights | | |
| | | | 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.

**** Roger Steup – entered Eternal Life on 3/31/2026
– Mass 7/28/2026 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!



**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 **July 1, 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.



**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, **July 28, 2026**



**Happy July
Birthdays**

Brian Ault
Tim Becker
Michael Bessesen
David Bokhart
Dan Bollard
Mark Cheshier
Gabriel Coelho
Peter Coronato
Kirk Crosby
Rev. Peter Deede
Joseph Deprisco
Al Diefenbach
Thomas Gabet
Anthony Hasselschwert
Kevin Hoersten
Jeff Hoffman
Timothy Isch
Thomas Keefer

Rev. Robert Krisch
James LaMaster II
Mark Leeuw
Clyde A. Nix
Paul O'Shaughnessey
Ryan Quandt
Steve Reinhart
James Robertson, Jr.
Carl Sabo
Ross A. Sawyer
Erik Seely
Garett Seibert
Peter Shutt
Donald Smith
Michael Smith
Adam Sordelet
Gregory Vorst
Jason Wampler
Jack Wehrly



Can Crushers Schedule

June 28 - July 04 : Sean Digan
July 05 - July 11 : OPEN
July 12 - July 18 : OPEN
July 19 - July 25 : OPEN
July 26 - Aug. 01 : Eric Seeley



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.



Save the Date!

Please consider volunteering to build a new home for a deserving Fort Wayne family through Habitat for Humanity at a location TBD in Downtown Fort Wayne on **Saturday July 25**. This is a very rewarding opportunity as we “build on faith, build up families and build community together,” the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

The activity and location will be determined the week of the event. Volunteers will be working on a home together from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM (No experience is necessary). Subway lunch will be provided at the end of the shift. We will need 5 volunteers for each of these days. Please sign up below.

[Saturday July 25 Habitat for Humanity Build Day Sign Up](#)



Declan Meyer

Congratulations to Declan Meyer!

A big congratulations to **Declan Meyer** for being awarded the **Knights of Columbus Scholarship for 2026!** This is a significant achievement, and it reflects Declan's hard work and dedication.

Scholarship Details

- **Award Amount:** Declan will receive **\$750** to be credited toward his tuition.
- **Future Plans:** He will be attending **Bishop Dwenger High School**, which will provide him with excellent educational opportunities.

A Job Well Done Declan!!



"Please Join the Indiana District of the Fourth Degree on **Saturday, July 25, 2026** for the New Patriotic Exemplification at our St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Details and times for interested candidates will be available on our Council 451 web page calendar.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Council 451 will hold their next Blood Drive on **August 1, 2026** at the Red Cross Blood Center located at 1212 E. California Road, Fort Wayne. You may donate if you have NOT donated blood after June 6, 2026.



Anthony Wayne Assembly 239 Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

Our Assembly meeting on June 9th began with folding hundreds of worn tattered flags. The ceremony for disposal of the flags was held as always on Flag Day, June 14th. Over 400 flags were disposed in a solemn ceremony by fire. I want to thank John Murray for organizing the ceremony and all who participated.

For our meeting July 14th which normally is our planning meeting for the coming year, we will also have the installation of our Assembly officers. The installation will take place in the Saint Mother T. Guerin Chapel at 7:00pm. Our yearly planning meeting will follow the installation of officers.

The details of our 4th Degree Exemplification have finally been released. The Exemplification will be held

Saturday, July 25th at 10:00 am, in St. Charles Church. A Mass following the ceremony will be held at 12:00 and a luncheon at 1:30. I encourage you to join us if you can. Please encourage your 3rd Degree knights to take advantage of this opportunity to take the degree here in Fort Wayne. In recent times the registration to join the 4th degree is through an online membership form. Please also have new members fill out a paper Form 4 application available from me or John Murray. This will insure we are able to promptly include you in our communications and activities. The link to the online registration is below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSel_QJH75qD7NM4og_eqR0p5ie8Nyy6iVaGqPbvXf12-v3hLg/viewform

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

There will be no Assembly meeting in August.

FOURTH DEGREE FRIAR'S PHRASES

The Anthony Wayne Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus proudly joins our nation in celebrating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing and the publication of the Declaration of Independence. This is, of course, one of the founding documents of our republic. The Declaration is cherished by our people for the three guiding principles it posits. **1.** Equality: All men (people) are created equal by God, and from him all are given unalienable rights, among them, Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. **2.** The consent of the governed: governments derive their power from the people. **3.** The right to revolution: if the government or any government violates those rights it can and ought to be abolished.

“The “Committee of Five”, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston, were commissioned by Congress to write the document, called the resolution on independence. They locked Jefferson in a room; he was the best writer; they made him do most of the composition. “We hold these Rights to be self-evident, and we are endowed with them by God. Et Cetera!”

As our Assembly enjoys these rights, may we be committed to deep and lasting prayer to God to protect our nation, and that all our people be safe from any tyrant who would steal our God given rights and liberties.

God Bless these United States! Happy Fourth!

Vivat Jesus!
Fr. William Kummer F.F.

Awards Dinner 2026

The Awards/Recognition dinner was held at Goeglein's Event Hall on Maysville Road on June 1, 2026. This event is held not only to recognize and award certain people, but as a way for the brother Knights, and their wives and guests to celebrate another successful year for Council 451.



GK Dennis Holp as he delivers opening remarks for the evening.



In attendance, was the council's oldest living member Rober Silva accompanied by his son David.



Msgr. Tom Shoemaker delivers the invocation.



Head table honorees: GK Dennis Holp, DGK Sean Digan, Deacon Rob Lortie - Chaplain,



Lady Vickie Lortie, Melissa Reed - Gibault, Lady Sis Wehrly, PGK Dr. Jack Wehrly, and Dave Barrett - District Deputy.



Dennis visiting with Nick Goralczyk - K of C Ins. Agent and Lady Carrie Goralczyk



Dennis presenting Shining Armor Award to Sean Bennett.



Shane Hall is presented with his Shining Armor Award from Dennis.



Michael Vanderpool receives his Shining Armor Award from Dennis.



Dennis presenting The Family of the Year Award to Dennis and Jill Redding.



Dennis presenting the Knight of the Year Award to Jim Pifko.



Dennis recognizing Financial Secretary Doug Baisinger who will be stepping down after more than a decade of service.



Dennis presenting Melissa Reed, Gibault Dir. Fund Dev. with a \$1,000 donation for Gibault Children's Services.

Photos provided by Dennis Redding

Highlights of the Ordination Ceremony for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

The recent ordination ceremony for five new priests in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was a deeply moving occasion. Bishop Rhoades emphasized the importance of understanding and imitating the sacrament they were celebrating, underscoring the gravity of their new responsibilities.

Key Moments from the Mass of Ordination

- **Commissioning of the New Priests:** The moment when Bishop Rhoades placed the bread and wine into the hands of Father Patrick Ernst, Father Johnathon Hickey, Father Noah Isch, Father Samuel Martinez, and Father Greenan Sullivan marked a significant commissioning to serve their parishes. This act symbolizes their role as spiritual shepherds.
- **Historical Significance:** The ordination held special meaning for St. Charles Borromeo and The Knights of Columbus Council 451, as two of their own became priests on the same day, reinforcing the community's commitment to faith and service.
- **Brother Knights' Participation:** The support from fellow Brother Knights, who participated actively in the Mass, further highlighted the unity and fraternity within the Church.

The day was a blend of tradition, community, and spirituality, creating cherished memories for everyone involved. The ordination affirmed the ongoing dedication and commitment of the Diocese to nurturing its spiritual leaders. The images shared from this memorable event reflect the joy and warmth of the community.



Pictures submitted by Joe Mikolay, courtesy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



Historic First Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Parish

On Sunday, June 7th, the parish of St. Charles Borromeo witnessed a truly historic and grace-filled moment. Fathers **Sam Martinez** and **Noah Isch**, newly ordained to the sacred priesthood, returned home to celebrate their **First Mass**—a milestone made even more profound as it coincided with the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi**.

This was the **first time in the parish's history** that two sons of St. Charles were ordained in the same year and celebrated their First Mass together on one day. The joy, pride, and reverence felt throughout the parish community made the day both **memorable and deeply moving**.

The celebration concluded with a **Corpus Christi procession** around the parish campus, a beautiful public witness to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Following the procession, a reception was held at the **Hessian Center**, where parishioners gathered to congratulate the new priests and share in the joy of the day.

As a sign of fraternity and support, the **Knights of Columbus** presented both Father Martinez and Father Isch—who are themselves **Brother Knights**—with **Travel Sacrament kits**, a practical and symbolic gift for their priestly journeys ahead.

The **splendor and reverence** of this extraordinary event are captured in the photos attached, preserving a day that will long be remembered in the life of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Vivat Jesus!



Historic First Mass continued . . .



Pictures submitted by Joe Mikolay

Fr. Bobby Krisch's Farewell Reception

A farewell reception was held on June 14, 2026 for Fr. Bobby Krisch, as it was his final weekend at St. Charles before leaving to his new assignment as the pastor of St. Patrick in Arcola. The reception for Fr. Bobby was held in the school cafeteria after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. A great number of people stopped in to thank him for his three years at St. Charles and to wish him well in his new assignment. Many Knights from Council 451 rolled up their sleeves and helped with serving and making sure the day went off smoothly.



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

Dave Barrett

david_e_barrett@frontier.com



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

Mark Braun 260-409-2337

Faithful Outside Sentinel

Dennis Redding 260-615-1692

Faithful Trustee

1. Mike Discala 260-553-2572

2. Ed Koehl 260-338-0743

3. Steve Heckber 260-622-7796

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!!!



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