

# The Shield

**June 2026**

Knights of Columbus  
 Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451  
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 Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296  
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## Grand Knights Message

Brother Knights:

On Memorial Day Weekend we remembered our brave military personnel who had given the ultimate sacrifice for our great country. Their sacrifice gave us and keeps for us the freedoms we have today, including our ability to practice our faith. Similarly, Jesus also gave the ultimate sacrifice, but for all of humanity. While Pentecost ends the Easter Season, let's be sure to use the opportunities we have been given to practice our faith. I recently noted a biblical post from Timothy 4:14: "Don't neglect the gift that is in you..."

Our Awards Dinner is Monday, June 1 and I'm hoping to see many of our 451 Knights there to celebrate our achievements and enjoy some social time. If you haven't reserved a spot, be sure to go to our web page and log in using the Signup Genius link. Check-in is at 6:00 pm, dinner is at 6:30 pm. We're asking for business casual attire.

Be sure to routinely check our web calendar for upcoming events. Roll up your sleeves on June 6 for our next blood drive at Good Shepherd/Sanctuary Church at Reed and Vance, watch for news about a Tincaps game and don't forget to put in some sweat equity for our other volunteer opportunities.

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp  
 Grand Knight, Council 451

	June		July
1	Appreciation Awards Dinner - Georgelin's Banquet Hall	1	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
3	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	6	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
6	Blood Drive at Good Shepherd Church	23	Knights night out at the Tin Caps baseball game
23	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	25	Habitat for Humanity Build #2
27	Habitat for Humanity Build #1	28	8:15 AM Mass for <b>Roger Steup</b> followed with breakfast with brother Knights

**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 **June 3, 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, **June 23, 2026**



**Happy June  
Birthdays**

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| David Beneke      | John Leeuw             |
| Sean Bennett      | Vince Lochbihler       |
| Steve Bentz       | Thomas Lonergan        |
| Andy Bernhard     | David Lonsway          |
| Todd Briscoe      | Edward Lubomirski, Jr. |
| Britton Burkhardt | Robert Ludwig          |
| John Chodacki     | Gary Mackela           |
| John Flood        | John Magsam            |
| John Gill         | Philip Miguel, Sr.     |
| Andrew Grote      | Matthew Nelson         |
| Mike Havens       | Derek Pillie           |
| Kevin Heimann     | Justin Purdy           |
| Jerome Henry      | Edward Schmieman       |
| John Higgins      | Rev. Thomas Shoemaker  |
| James Keating     | Samuel Sliger          |
| Michael Kohrman   | Art Tonsing            |
|                   | Joseph Tratnyek        |
|                   | William Tropmann       |
|                   | Richard L. Wallace     |

### Can Crushers Schedule



May 31 - June 06 : Eric Seeley  
June 07 - June 13 : Jim Pifko  
June 14 - June 20 : Dave Lothamer  
June 21 - June 27 : Pete Shutt  
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 Dates!**



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 June 27** or **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 June 27 Habitat for Humanity Build Day Sign Up](#)

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



### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Council 451 is holding a Blood Drive Saturday, June 6, 2026. The drive will be held at the Good Shepherd/Sanctuary Church just down the road at the corner of Reed Road and Vance Avenue. The facility will be air-conditioned for your comfort.



### **Flag Day**

Flag Day is June 14th. There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony that evening by the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree held at the St. Vincent's Scout Lodge at 7pm.

If you have any old torn flags, there is a box at the north entrance of St. Charles Church where you can place them.



## Anthony Wayne Assembly 239 Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

At our last meeting the election of officers was held. We have two new officers, Mark Braun will be the Inner Sentinel and Steve Heckber will be 3-year Trustee, effective July 1st. Sir Knight, Steve Lutz, presented a request from Fr. David Meinzen at the VA Hospital for a case of 20 books on “Why We’re Catholic” by Trent Horn. The books will be given to Catholic VA Hospital patients. A case of Books cost \$80. The motion passed. A motion was made and passed to have a food booth at the St. Aloysius festival Aug. 22nd. We hope this will allow us to gain public exposure and hopefully a little money.

I am looking forward to the summer months but not only for the warmer weather. June 7th is the feast of Corpus Christi; many parishes will have a Eucharistic procession. June 9th I’m sure we will have many flags to fold at the Scouts Lodge before our meeting. June 12th is the feast of the Sacred Heart. Flag Day, June 14th we will be retiring worn flags at the St. Vincents Scout Lodge at 7:00 pm. I hope you will be able to get involved.

**We will meet June 9th at 6:30 at the St Vincent Scout Lodge to fold flags. The Assembly meeting will be after the folding of flags.**

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

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### FOURTH DEGREE FRIAR’S PHRASES

As you know, and as we have talked about on more than a couple of occasions during our regular Assembly meetings, our Bishop, Kevin Rhoades, the bishops of the United States, our Supreme Knight, Brother Patrick Kelly, the Supreme Officers, and our Faithful Navigator, Michael Blankman have ask us that in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the “Declaration of Independence,” the birthday of our country, that we dedicate our nation, our families, our Assembly and ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The date, July 4, 1776, is honored to be known as the foundation of our Nation. Through faith in Jesus’ Heart may God continue to pour out his mercy on us and our nation for the forgiveness of sins; and also pour out grace abundantly upon us that we may do remarkable things to further the freedom and goodness in our Land. To accomplish these noble goals, may the prayers we offer be sincere, and may they come from the depth of our faith.

In solemn memory I hope that we may remember being in our grandparents’ homes where in either the dining room or the living room there was hung up picture of the Sacred Heart. It was placed there by the parish priest, along with the prayers for the enthronement and for the home blessing. Usually, the whole family and friends in the neighborhood would gather for enthronement. We are attempting again to make this solemn enthronement a more frequent happening in our homes. This would be a true sign that we have placed the hope and the safety of our nation and of our families in that merciful source of the Sacraments, the Heart of the Savior. In addition, the Leadership is asking that we all join in a Novena in preparation for national dedication. We will Begin this Novena on June 3 and ending on 11th, before the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 12th.

The prayers of dedication, the prayers for enthronement, and the prayers for devotion to the Sacred Heart are available through the diocesan web site, The Knights of Columbus site, or in your local parishes.

This will be an exciting time for us Knights and for our Nation.

Vivat Jesus!  
Fr. William Kummer F.F.

## O Beautiful Mother

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, Council 451 participated in the O Beautiful Mother ceremony at the Marian grotto of the Catholic Cemetery to honor our Blessed Mother. The event was organized by Jessica Schuster and officiated by Father Spencer St. Louis, Pastor of Queen of Angels. It included a living rosary led by children along with prayers and Marian hymns sung by the Ecce Young Adult Choir. It culminated with the beautiful tradition of a May crowning by a first communicant. She processed thru the crowd and placed a beautiful array of flowers upon the Blessed Mother statue. Children and adults then followed placing single stem and bouquets of flowers around Our Lady symbolizing devotion to Mary as Queen of heaven and earth.

Knights assisting in this event included: Don Smith from Council 451 and Sir Knights Pete Duran, Steve Lutz and Dennis Redding from the fourth degree of the Anthony Wayne Assembly 239.



Members of the Ecce Young Adult Choir led by Jessica Schuster with 4th degree honor guard.



Crowning of Mary Our Mother by first communicant.



Fr. Spencer St. Louis as he leads the living rosary accompanied by children reciting the prayers.



*Photos provided by Steve Lutz*



Sir Knights Dennis Redding, Stev Lutz, Don Smith, Council 451 and Sir Knight Pete Duran.

## Knights Helping Neighbors

Now that it is spring, nature is awake and blooming. It is time to address those remaining fall leaves and the damage caused by the past brutal winter. For some of our older homeowners, this is a bit more than they can tackle alone.

Calls have been coming in to the Knights asking for our help in landscaping work, fence repairs, gutter cleaning, garden tilling and, in one case, helping a disabled resident relocate. Of the six projects completed in the last month, four requests came from St. Charles parishioners and two from our St. Vincent de Paul Conference assisting neighbors in the 46815-zip code area. Fortunately, we have a group of Knights numbering 10 or so that give one or two days a week for such work. The 100+ hours donated for these projects by our Knights brought some happiness and relief from the worries that they need not face alone.

*Photos on next page provided by Dennis Redding*

## Knights Helping Neighbors photos



The team in front of the repaired fence: Jim Keefer, Tom Richter, Dave Lothamer, Tom Lothamer, Don Smith, Dennis Redding on camera.



Hauling a section in place.



Don Smith, Dave Lothamer, Jim Keefer prepare to drill one of four new post holes.



A portion of the fence at the start.



Jim Pifko on gutter detail.



Dennis Redding tilling a garden patch.



Tom Lorhamer, Dave Lothamer and Don Smith clearing bed for planting.



Jim Pifko, Joe Lauer, and Tom Lothamer planting the first of 20 azaleas.



Sean Digan getting down and dirty.



Tom Lothamer, Jim Pifko and Sean Digan preparing flower bed for stone.



Moving team:  
Don Smith, Jim Pifko, Dave Lothamer, Joe Lauer, Dennis Redding and Tom Richter (in blue).



Tom Richter and Dave Lothamer unloading truck.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters** is once again calling for male volunteers to join their Real Men Read program. Just five hours of your time this fall and winter can make a meaningful difference in a child's life. This is a great chance for Knights to be visible in the community and share the spirit of service our organization is known for.

For details, contact BBBS through the information provided or reach out to Joe Mikolay at 260-348-9416. We hope you'll consider stepping forward for this important effort.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters.**

# REAL MEN READ

Make a difference at school by turning the page

*Encouraging literacy and love for reading to 2nd/3rd grade students  
Be a positive male role model for kids just by reading a book*

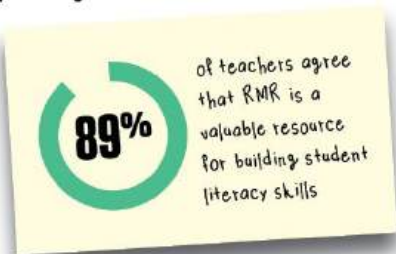
## READERS CAN EXPECT

- Books to read throughout the school year
- Reading guide to help spark conversations in class
- Read five (5) times throughout the school year
- Contributions to the classroom library

**On average, our readers read on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month\***

- October 15, 2026
- November 19, 2026
- January 21, 2027
- February 18, 2027
- March 18, 2027

\*Dates can be rescheduled with classroom teacher as needed



## TURN THE FIRST PAGE!

Scan the QR Code or visit [bbbs.tfaforms.net/4842453](https://bbbs.tfaforms.net/4842453) to fill out your application to get started as a Real Men Reader!

For more information, contact us at (260) 456-1600 or [Anne.Casteen@bbbsnei.org](mailto:Anne.Casteen@bbbsnei.org)

**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**

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)