

The Shield

March 2026

Knights of Columbus
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Grand Knights Message

Brother Knights:

Spring just gave us a brief taste of weather to come with a brief surge of warm temps. It's God's message reminding us that we're about to celebrate Easter, a time for renewal and new beginnings. Jesus was raised from the dead and back to life, a message of hope for us as we maintain our struggle for our own victory over death.

Successes in February include helping staff the Borromeo Bash, increased entrants in our annual free throw competition, 451 Knights at Komet hockey, a very successful blood drive (63 units collected against a goal of 54). If you haven't checked in for one of our events, you're missing out! Check our calendar for upcoming opportunities.

Our upcoming March 6 fish fry presents our next opportunity for members to engage with our Council 451 brothers. There's sign-up links on our web page to commit your time and talents. In mid-April, the Indiana State Council will hold the annual K of C State Conference here in Fort Wayne. I personally have found participation to be worthwhile and enlightening as I learn the ropes of being an officer and a better Christian. Officer attendance is subsidized by the Council, but all members are invited to attend.

Finally, it's time to consider election of officers. Typically, officers serve a 2-year term. We're currently just past mid-year of year #1, but annual election will occur for Council 451 at our May meeting. If you have ANY interest in serving as an officer, nominations will occur at the next 3 membership meetings. Don't feel shy about getting more involved!

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
 Grand Knight, Council 451



	March		April
2	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	1	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
4	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	6	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
6	Fish Fry	11	Red Cross Blood Drive
21	Teen Retreat lunch at St. Felix in Huntington, IN.	28	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
24	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights		

In Loving Memory of
James E. Alwine Sr.
 February 28, 1937 - February 13, 2026



Jim Alwine, long time member of Council 451, Past Grand Knight (1999-2002) and Financial Secretary for over twenty years passed away February 13, 2026. Jim was a Knight for 44 years joined in September 20, 1982 and became a 4th degree member in April 1, 1984. Jim transferred to his home parish Our Lady of Good Hope after turning over the Financial Secretary's position in 2016. Please remember Jim Alwine and all the deceased Brother Knights in your prayers.



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 March 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.



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, March 24, 2026



From the Financial Secretary

Dues statements were mailed out the first of January and your dues are now due. Your prompt payment of your dues needs to be done now. You can send your payment to our P.O. box, drop off at the church business office, put in the collection basket addressed to K of C arm any weekend Mass or bring to our next meeting on March 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 dbaisinger@gmail.com.



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.



Happy March Birthdays

Michael Arciga	Sam Matthews
Jeffrey Bauermeister	John McCullough
Matthew Bokhart	John Minick
Timothy Cooper	Philip Poinatte
Robert Current	Thomas Pycz
Joseph Firestine	Ronald Russell Jr.
Timothy Freeman	Craig Scherschel
Robert Garrett	Robert Schlensker
John Haselden	Seth Secaur
Donald Hayden	Chuck Smith
Dave Helmkamp	Arnold Starewich
Daniel Howe	Andrew Stein
Joseph Keefer	Dave Stevens
John Kohrman	John Tippmann
John Krouse	David Venderley
Robert Leszcznski	Richard Wise
Richard Martin	



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Can Crushers Schedule

Feb 22 - Feb 28 : Jason Gabet
 Mar 01 - Mar 07 : Dave Lothamer
 Mar 08 - Mar 14 : OPEN
 Mar 15 - Mar 21 : OPEN
 Mar 22 - Mar 28 : Joe Mikolay
 Mar 29 - Apr 04 : Eric Seely
 Apr 05 - Apr 11 : Jim Pitko



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,

As we head into the month of March we think of a welcome change in seasons. Soon we will welcome Spring weather and a change to more comfortable outdoor activities.

Just after I sent out the February newsletter our Color Guard participated in the local March for Life which started with a rally at the Parkview Field in several inches of snow then out into the streets. Temperatures were in the low teens. Thanks goes out to all participants and especially our commander, Pete Duran.

At our last meeting we began taking orders for our 4th degree shirts. We will continue taking orders until the next meeting, March 10th. We presented a \$200 check to SK Blane Ryan as reimbursement for his 4th Degree uniform after participating in 3 events. The convention for the Indiana State Council will be held in Fort Wayne, April 17-19. A letter from the State Deputy indicates that a 4th Degree Exemplification will be held Friday, April 17, for clergy only. As soon as registration forms are available, I will pass that along.

One of the annual forms sent to the Supreme Council by assemblies and councils is the Fraternal Survey. We report charitable donations which I summarized in the January newsletter, and hours of service. I wanted you to know that your assembly provide 89 hours for Faith activities, 77 hours in Community events including military events, 29 hours in Pro-life events, and 41 hours for bereavement. That is a total of 195 hours. This gives the Supreme Council justification for its tax-exempt status. It also gives us some idea of how we are doing achieving our mission of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Our next meeting will be March 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

As the friar, I thought it important to offer a few words about the season of Lent, which we are now experiencing. Most Catholic folk think of Lent as solely a time for personal penance and a personal time of self-denial. However, there is a communal part of this time that we ought not neglect. And certainly, as the faithful order, the public acts of the Fourth Degree should be seen. The example of generosity and repentance will do much to inspire the conversion we as community and individuals need. Recently at the general monthly meeting our Assembly gave many monetary gifts. This is the type of action that helps us as individuals and as community to bring awareness of the need of conversion to the front.

Holiness is a "Life-Time" work. Communal penance added to communal alms giving will together help us achieve the goal of Lent, the purity of heart.

Vivat Jesus!

FATHER WILLIAM J. KUMMER

FAITHFUL FRIAR

KNIGHTS OUT

When we think of the Knights getting together for an activity, it usually involves a work project of some type. Well, Sunday, February 8th was all about fun and fellowship. In a brainstorming session at a recent officer's meeting, Blane Ryan suggested a Komets Hockey game as a possibility. After pooling members at one of our regular monthly meetings, the idea received a favorable response. Blane made the arrangements, and many Knights and family members showed up. While we showed up to cheer on the home team, the Komets apparently were not listening. In a dismal performance, the Bloomington Bisons shut out the Komets 5 – 0. Could be the Komets were looking forward to a Super Bowl party instead of taking care of business. Nonetheless, it was good having time to relax and enjoy each other's company. Next time we might try a Tin Caps game.



Photos provided by Dennis Redding

Knights Helping Neighbors

Now that winter is gripping us in a cold ice block, many of the projects the Knights are normally associated with have slowed down. That doesn't mean there aren't opportunities to help others in need. I'm sure many of you have been busy shoveling snow off walks and driveways for family and neighbors. Occasionally, helping a

stranded motorist by jumping a weak battery or transporting an elderly neighbor to a doctor's appointment. As for serving the poor, this is a 12-month a year need. Poverty takes no break, if anything, it becomes more acute in the bitter cold. Our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Charles continues to ask for our help. Many of our Knights have helped to deliver and set up beds and other furniture. It is very rewarding to give someone their own bed, especially a child who may have been sleeping on the floor, a couch or packed in with several others. Our thanks to the following Knights who answered the call: Mark Herrberg, Joe Lauer, Tom Richter and Dennis Redding.

If you wish to be added to the call list, please contact Dennis Redding at 615-1692.



Mark Herrberg helping deliver furniture to a neighbor.



Joe Lauer and Dennis Redding unloading a dresser.

Photos provided by Dennis Redding

March For Life 2026

Saturday, January 31st marked the 52nd anniversary of the March for Life in Northeast Indiana. Despite temperatures in the mid-teens and a wind chill far colder, hundreds turned out to march for the defenseless among us. Knights of Council 451 joined many other parishioners of St. Charles with Monsignor Tom Shoemaker leading the way. Our local Anthony Wayne Assembly 239 numbered nearly half the honor guard contingent.

Abortion is still a very real threat with chemical abortions through abortion pills now the most common method of ending a pregnancy. In a statement by the Right to Life of Northeast Indiana, “The need for truth, compassion and advocacy for both mother and child is greater than ever.” With much work still to be done, let us continue to be vigilant and a voice for the unborn.



Fourth Degree Honor Guards posting the colors.



A group of St. Charles parishioners gathering.



Marchers assembling for the walk.



Honor Guard preparing to lead the way,



Tom Richter showing his support despite the -19 degree cold.



St. Charles marchers gather on the federal courthouse steps to show their support.



Borromeo Bash 2026

The eighth Annual Borromeo Bash was held Saturday, February 7th at Ceruti's. The theme for the evening was Monte Cardinal Night featuring a dinner, casino games, with silent and live auctions. As we have in the past, the Knights provided manpower for registration, auction spotters, recorders, chip table tellers, staffing the donation tables and assisting at auction checkout. Early indications are the event was a huge success attended by a sellout crowd. Proceeds from the event will be designated for improvements to the school. Knights who volunteered included: Joe Clauser (volunteer coordinator), Tom Keefer, Dennis Redding, Mike Ripley (Master of Ceremonies), Sam Sliger, Matt Smith, and Dave Stevens.



Monsignor Tom and honored guests.



Teacher's table sponsored by the Knights.



Mike Ripley served as Master of Ceremonies.



Photos provided by Dennis Redding



Matt Smith explaining the bourbon raffle procedure to a fellow volunteer.



Joe Clauser, Diane and Tom Keefer as they prepare for the live auction.

FREE THROW COMPETITION

The annual "Basketball Free Throw" competition was held after the Sunday Mass on February 1, 2026. We had 33 boys and girls participate in the competition and had 10 winners in the various age groups. They will move on to the District competition.



- St. Charles winner are:
- Age 9 - boys - Elliot Coleman
 - Age 10 - girls - Katie Haselder.
 - boys - Daniel Ade
 - Age 11 - girls - Grace Blotkamp
 - boys- Nolan McCann
 - Age 12 - girls - Sofia Bird
 - boys - James Morris
 - Age 13 - girls - Hannah Blotkamp
 - boys - Atticus Wilder
 - Age 14 - girls - Adelaide Bonar



Congratulations to all of St. Charles champions. Also, a big thank you to Bill and Sam Sliger for organizing and running the competition. We also want to give thanks to all of our Brother Knights who help this be our most successful Free Throw Competition!



Rekindle the Fire Conference 2026

Rekindle the Fire Conference in South Bend on February 21, 2026. There were 6 Council 451 members that attended the conference along with over 650 other men from the diocese. It was a very spiritual experience, with three great speakers, Bishop Rhoades answered questions from the audience and he celebrated Mass for everyone at 4:00. That sent us home with a very special ending to a wonderful day of friendship and spiritual togetherness.



Fr. Jay Horning Master of Ceremonies for the conference



1st speaker Robert Roger's, A St. Vincents Fort Wayne parishioner.



2nd speaker Fr. Larry Richard.



3rd speaker Dom Quaglia.



Bishop Rhoades answering questions from audience.



Bishop Rhoades celebrating Mass.



Photos provided by Doug Baisinger

The following is a popular Irish blessing for St. Patrick's Day, and is used to celebrate and honor the patron saint of Ireland:

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.

May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore.

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

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