

# The Shield

**May 2025**

Knights of Columbus  
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451  
P.O. Box 15296,  
Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296  
Phone: 260-414-0421  
Office: 260-484-3392 x347



Brother Knights,

Congratulations on another successful Parish Fish Fry. Although attendance was down slightly, we were still able to serve over 750 meals and provide a social gathering for the Parish family. Thanks to Sean Digan, event chairman, for his many hours of preparation and to the many Knights who volunteered their time. I hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as I did.

The very next morning Council 451 held its second blood drive of the year. Our St. Charles Parishioners, most of whom were at the fish fry, donated 66 units of blood which helps 198 people. Thank you to the Red Cross "A" team of Phlebotomists and Brother Knights DD Dr. Tom Ryan, DGK Dennis Holp and Vince Lochbiler for their devotion to this project.

Our insurance agent, Nick Goralczyk, will be attending our May meeting. So, if you have any insurance or investment questions be sure to ask them then. Also, at the May meeting, Dennis Redding will be looking for volunteers to help at the "O BEAUTIFUL MOTHER MAY CROWNING" being held at the catholic cemetery on Sat. May 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have not attended before this is a beautiful event to consider attending.

We have our annual Appreciation/Awards Dinner planned for Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup> in place of our regular monthly meeting. I hope all of you will consider attending this special event. The dinner is again being held at Georgelin's Banquet Hall and as last year's attendees can attest it was a wonderful time. A way for the Council to promote Fraternity and Unity among its members.

By now all of you know of the passing of Pope Francis. Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, wrote a remembrance of Pope Francis and his connection with the Knights of Columbus. I think it was emailed to all the Knights around the world. In case you missed, we are including it in this month's Shield. Hope all of you are enjoying this Easter season!

Vivat Jesus,  
Jack Wehrly, Grand Knight Council 451

	<b>May</b>		<b>June</b>
5	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	2	Appreciation Awards Dinner - Georgelin's Banquet Hall
7	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	4	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
10	O Beautiful Mother May Crowning	9	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
12	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights		

*With Deepest  
Sympathy*

### Deceased Member

Please remember Thomas J. Seculoff and all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.



### **Monthly Mass & Breakfast !** **NEW DATE CHANGE**

Our monthly Knights Mass and Breakfast is moving to the second Monday of the month, starting in May. 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, May 12, 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 Faghieh, 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, 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 May 7, 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.

### **Happy May Birthdays**



Jason Arbogast, Andrew Barnes, Eugene Delaney, Charles Doehrman, Edward D'Souza, Thomas Earnest, Robert Gill, Wilfred Hackbush, Mark Harber, Chris Hartman, John Hogan, Dennis Holp, Thomas Lothamer, Jay Lauer, Joseph McClamrock, Robert Morris, Vincent Orłowski, Matthew O'Shaughnessey, Robert Plant, Timothy Rebber, David Rulka, Gerry Schafer, Daniel Schreck, Matthew Smith, James Stahl, Rick Trego, Chad Turk, Edward Waldschmidt, James Wall, J David Yonkman

### **From the Financial Secretary:**

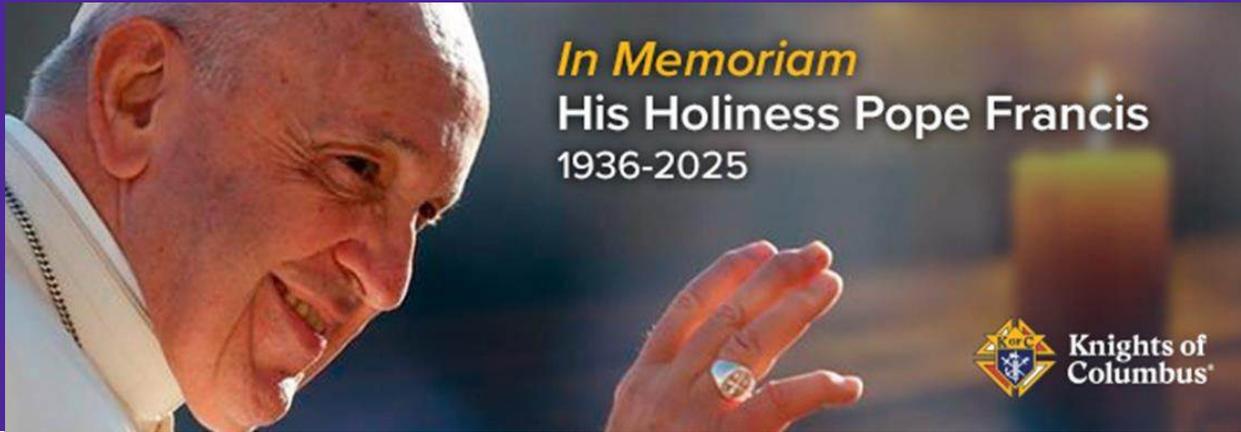
I would like to thank all the Brother Knight's that have paid their 2025 dues. There are still 20 Brother Knights who have not paid their 2025 dues. Your dues are now past due and must be paid immediately. Your dues are \$41.00 and should be mailed to the following address:

Knights of Columbus council 450  
P.O. Box 15296  
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

If you are experiencing a financial hardship at this time and do not think you will be able to pay your dues, or you are not sure that you want to continue being a member of Council 451, please contact Doug Baisinger at 260-450-0804 or email me at [dbaisinger@gmail.com](mailto:dbaisinger@gmail.com).

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Doug



*In Memoriam*  
**His Holiness Pope Francis**  
1936-2025



Brother Knights,

Today, we join all Catholics and people of faith around the world as we mourn the death of our Holy Father Pope Francis.

Pope Francis was a powerful witness to charity and fraternity, challenging us to reach out to the margins of society and serve those who are too often forgotten.

He was also a friend to the Knights of Columbus and a champion of our mission. On many occasions, the Holy Father expressed his gratitude for all that the Knights do. He continually encouraged our charitable work and our efforts to promote the dignity of human life in the face of what he often called a “throwaway culture.” He expressed his support, too, for our efforts to challenge each other to become better husbands and better fathers, and to embrace our responsibility to be active participants in the Church’s mission of evangelization.

I have been blessed to meet with the Holy Father on several occasions, most recently in December, when I updated him on our charitable work, our support for vocations, the growth of our faith formation initiative for Catholic men, Cor, and our devotion to the Sacred Heart. In all our meetings, I was always moved by his faith and encouragement and counted it as a great blessing to be able to represent you and our Order to the Vicar of Christ.

Pope Francis was also the Pontiff who approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of our Founder, opening the door to Father McGivney’s beatification on October 31, 2020.

Both Pope Francis and Blessed Michael McGivney shared a passion for those on the margins and challenged those around them to stand up and to serve.

As we mourn the loss of Pope Francis and continue our prayers for him and the Church, we renew our commitment to follow his example to serve those most in need.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Vivat Jesus!

Patrick E. Kelly  
Supreme Knight



### Wedding Bells

Have you ever attended an event when you personally were filled with such hope and happiness? Such was the feeling felt by so many as they witnessed the marriage of Jack Palmersheim, a brother Knight, to his bride Judy Diagostino on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Both had previously been married for a combined total of nearly 120 years before suffering the loss of their respective spouses. But the story did not end there. Jack and Judy joined a bereavement support group at St. Vincent’s and over the next few years met and became friends. This friendship grew and, as they say, the rest is history. For most of us who attended, this was a remarkable occasion to experience. We wish them many years of happiness.



## Can Crushers Schedule

**Apr 27 - May 3: Dave Lothamer**

**May 4 - May 10: Jim Pifke**

**May 11 - May 17: Eric Seely**

**May 18 - May 24: Jason Gabet**

**May 25 - May 31: Bruce Bennett**

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.**



## **Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Contest Winner**

Abby Hasselschwert displays her third place certificate which she received at the Knights of Columbus State Free Throw championships held in Indianapolis.

Congratulations Abby from all the Knights at Council 451. A job well done.

*Photos provided by Jack Wehrly*



## **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 first Build Day will be on Saturday June 28 and 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 [purdjd01@gmail.com](mailto:purdjd01@gmail.com).



## **Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree**



Hi,

We had our meeting on the 8th. We discussed the exemplification coming up May 31st. I said to make sure all the 3rd Degree Knights were aware of this. It is going to be in Gary, Indiana. I have information and forms I can send them. We had nominations for Officers and we need a Secretary. All other offices are filled. Other items were discussed concerning the 4th Degree Knights. Our next meeting will be May 13 at 6:30 in the Mother Guerin chapel basement.

Dave Barrett  
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.*



Below is the list of officer nominations for fiscal year 2026. The final nomination reading will be held at the May meeting Monday May 5. The vote will follow the reading.

## Nominations for Officers Council 451 2025/2026

**Grand Knight:** Dennis Holp \_\_\_\_\_

**Deputy Grand Knight:** Sean Digan \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** Joe Mikolay \_\_\_\_\_

**Recorder:** Mike Ripley \_\_\_\_\_

**Chancellor:** Jason Gabet \_\_\_\_\_

**Warden:** Gene Delaney \_\_\_\_\_

**Outside Guard:** Chuck Smith \_\_\_\_\_

**Inside Guard:** Blane Ryan \_\_\_\_\_

**Three-year Trustee:** Jack Wehrly \_\_\_\_\_

**Two-Year Trustee:** Bruce Bennett \_\_\_\_\_

**One-Year Trustee:** Dennis Redding \_\_\_\_\_

**Advocate:** Ed Tobey \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Secretary:** Doug Baisinger, Appointed by Supreme.

**Directorships:** To be Appointed by Grand Knight.

**Membership and Public Relations Dir:** Justin Purdy

**Program Director:**

**Fraternal Director:**

**Life Director:**

**Family Director:**

**Community Director:**



Dennis Holp clears a bed of dead leaves



Dennis Redding tilling one of several garden patches

### Spring Yard Activity

As the saying goes, “spring has sprung” and with it all the work to get our yards ready for the spring season. The Knights once again returned to the property of one of our handicapped parishioners. With tools in hand, they raked those lingering piles of dead leaves, trimmed bushes, tilled a number of garden patches and did the first mowing of the lawn. When finished, the yard looked beautiful and ready for the Easter weekend. This is definitely one of those feel-good projects, and it is never difficult to get volunteers. If you are one of our senior Knights who could use some help or know of anyone in need, please contact Dennis Redding at 615-1692 and we will put out the call for help.



Jim Pifko leveling the ground for planting



Tom Richter blowing out a corner bed

## FISH FRY 2025

Preparation for a parish fish fry doesn't start the day of the big event. Weeks before, Sean Digan, project manager, turned the knight's office into a warehouse with plates, containers, serving ware and all sorts of nonperishable items. The week of the event freezer space became a premium at the school, Sean's house and any place that could be found. Thursday night, a team prepped 700 serving cups with applesauce and tartar sauce for carryout. Noon on Friday, a dozen Knights breaded 350 – 400 pounds of haddock in the Dan's Fish Fry mobile unit. Once the school cafeteria staff cleared, another team began work in the kitchen and the carryout room. All this work was performed smoothly with oversight from our kitchen supervisors, Gene Delaney and Tim Isch, while Joe Mikolay organized the carry-out area. In all, there were roughly 90 positions that had to be filled by Knights, their wives and many other volunteers.

How, might you ask, do you measure the success of the event? How about serving more than 750 dinners, or a cafeteria filled to near capacity for two hours by crowds enjoying a good meal and socializing with family and friends. Perhaps more importantly, most of this money will be used by the Knights for charitable contributions and in financing many activities. Our thanks to all who gave of their time and talents to make this a lovely evening for others. Below are pictures of many of the workers. Unfortunately, we were not able to capture everyone's photo; but know your contribution was very much appreciated.



Thursday night prepping: Project Lead Sean Digan, Chuck Smith, John Murray



Kitchen supervisors: Gene Delaney, Tim Isch, Joe Mikolay



Joe McKenna and Jim Pifko fill applesauce cups



Dave Lonsway and Joe McKenna on tartar sauce duty



Dennis Redding and Gene Delaney fill trays with cups



Breading fish - Joe Lauer, Jim Pifko, Jay Lauer, John Prascsak, Tom Richter, Ed Lubomirski, Dennis Redding, Jim Keefer, Bruce Bennett



Mike Wass and Doug Baisinger working the ticket table



Serving Line - Blane Ryan, Bill Towhig, Mark Graf, Frank Koehl



Serving up fresh macaroni and cheese - Mark Graf with Ron Russell looking on. Frank Koehl in the background



Second Shift - Jeff Henry, Tom Keefer, Dennis Holp



Also on the line - Ron Russell, Ed Schmieman, John Prascsak

**FISH FRY 2025 continued . . .**



Prepping potatoes - Tracey Collins, Gene Delaney and daughter Anna, Tim Isch



Dean Haselden and Tracy Collins with coffee to go



Dishing up more tartar sauce - David Lothamer, Jack Wehrly, Jason Gabet, Andy Bernhard



Tom Harning and Mike Havens in support roles



Two of our many floor servers - Russ Suever and Herb Haley



Eric Ade, Jason Gabet, Tom Pycz keeping the fish coming



Ted Braselton, one of our newer Knights, making the rounds



Ready for action - Andy Meyer and Bruce Bennett



Dawn Smith and Tom Ryan serving up refreshing drinks



Order takers - Vincent Wallace, John Magsam, Tim Miller



Drive thru in action - Greg Sult, Vince Lochbihler, Dave Fairchild, Bruce Bennett



Tray collection and washer - Mike Smith and John Murray



Manning the dessert table -Bill & Marijo Sliger



A meal fit for a growing family - Mike & Abigail Ripley with their boys



Some of our bakers - Katie McQuillin, Lillian Lothamer, Jill Redding, Pam Bennett

## Teen Retreat at St. Felix March 22, 2025

Brother Knights Joe Mikolay, Jack Wehrly, Tom Pycz, Bill Sliger, Tom Ryan and Tom Richter served a delicious lunch of nachos, apple sauce dessert and lemonade to the teens on a weekend retreat at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington, IN. on Saturday March 22, 2025.

The kids were very appreciative and voted us the best meal providers for the teen retreat. When asked if we would return to provide supper, we had to disappoint them with an unfortunate no!



Joe Mikolay, Tom Pycz, Bill Sliger, Tom Ryan and Tom Richter are ready to serve lunch to 65 teens and adults



Almost finished serving lunch ready to partake of the dutifully prepared food. Joe, Jack, Tom, Bill, Tom and Tom.



Just a few of the exuberant teens who thoroughly enjoyed the meal the Knights prepared for them.

*Photos provided for by Jack Wehrly*



The dining hall at St. Felix for those who have never been there.



Tom, Tom and Tom begin serving the teens lunch.



Honor Guard at the Chrism at the Cathedral on April 16, 2025.

Members pictured left to right: Keith Burns, Pete Duran, Mike Blankman, Richard Burton, Mark Stieglitz, Dennis Redding, Doug Baisinger, Loren Nichter, Kenny Wyss, Ronald Linder, Mike Follis



At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's confirmation with Bishop Kevin Rhodes presiding on March 23, 2025.

Members pictured: John Trok, Mike Blankman, Pete Duran, Richard Burton, Mark Stieglitz, Kenny Wyss

*Photos provided for by Doug Baisinger*

## Fourth Degree Exemplification

On March 22, 2025, the Fourth Degree Exemplification for the Midwest was held in Indianapolis. Those in attendance were Bishop Robert J. McClory, Gary Diocese; Bishop Timothy Doherty, Lafayette Diocese; Archbishop Charles Thompson, Indianapolis; Supreme Master, Michael McCusker, PSD, with many other dignitaries and 110 candidates.

The event was of particular significance in that this year marked the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the patriotic order. The first exemplification took place Feb. 22, 1900, in New York City when 1,100 Knights received the Fourth Degree.

Of note, the first Fourth Degree Ceremony in Indiana was held in the Diocese of Fort Wayne in 1914. Continuing this tradition of patriotic service on March 22 were several candidates from Fort Wayne including one of our own from 451, Dennis Redding. Dennis joins many other brother knights from our council as a member of the Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree.

Following the exemplification ceremony, a banquet was held at the Knights of Columbus hall at the Cathedral downtown. The evening's program included messages from several of the visiting dignitaries and presentation of awards. As part of the awards ceremony, one honoree was recognized from each diocese. The honoree from the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese was Steve Lutz from Council 451. Steve is the past Indiana Veterans Affairs Chairman. He was recognized for his leadership and continued involvement in this committee as they serve our veterans.

During the day, a first-class relic of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney was present in the Blessed Chapel. Knights could approach and touch appropriate items to the relic creating third class relics. This was indeed a great honor and a visit to remember as we continue to pray for his canonization to sainthood.



Dennis Redding being knighted by Sir Patrick J. Glavin, Indiana District Master



First class relic of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.



Sir Steve Lutz with other members of the Veterans Affairs working group.



There is going to be another 4th Degree Exemplification on May 31st in Gary. All interested 3rd Degree members can get more information about this by contacting Dave Barrett Faithful Navigator at: [david\\_e\\_barrett@frontier.com](mailto:david_e_barrett@frontier.com).

**2024-2025 Officers**  
Council 451

**Chaplain**

Deacon Robert Lortie

**Grand Knight**

Jack Wehrly 414-0421

**Deputy Grand Knight**

Dennis Holp 493-1018

**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 Bruce Bennett 409-0229

2 Dennis Redding 615-1692

1 Gary Mackela 402-9614

**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



**2024-2025 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 Sliger 750-8657

**Gibault Envoy**

Mike Smith 479-7199

**Faith Director**

Tony Hasselschwert 413-5310

**Community Director**

Dennis Redding 615-1692

**Anthony Wayne Assembly**  
2024-2025

**Faithful Friar**

Rev. William Kummer 260-639-3748

**Faithful Navigator**

Dave Barrett 260-403-2180

**Faithful Captain**

Mike Blankman 260-639-7201

**Faithful Pilot**

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

**Faithful Scribe**

Keith Burns 260-515-0609

**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**

Chuck Irvin 260-417-0343

**Faithful Trustee**

1. Rick Jennings 260-494-5982

2. Mike Descala 260-999-4141

3. Edward Koehl 260-338-0743

**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)