

The Shield

November 2025

Knights of Columbus
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Grand Knights Message

Brothers:

We're just closing out a very successful October for Council 451. We raised money for a parish 6th grader and his family battling cancer, helped up to 168 people who need blood products, and showed our support for all the unborn in the world. Sounds pretty impressive for a relatively small group of guys who just "get it done"! After all the prep work and planning, I'm betting all three could be considered "fun" as well! Thanks to all brother knights who helped in these efforts. There's no such thing as "no big deal" when there's a need for our help and we/you produce! We're doing our best to schedule things as inclusively as we can but are always open to suggestions to help make our activities more accessible to working guys!

Check our calendar for upcoming opportunities. Can you shuffle cards, sling food, or roll up your sleeve? We have things for you! We acknowledge all military veterans with a solemn ceremony on November 11, with a final roll call for Council 451 Knights who have passed away in the last year. It's truly a moving ceremony honoring those who helped keep us free. Be sure to keep December 6 open and come celebrate the birth of Christ with us at our Christmas party.

Finally, you all have received the Christmas list for the kids at Gibault. Be sure to bring your unwrapped gifts to the meeting on November 3 or contact an officer to arrange for a drop-off at the Council office. Help make Christmas one to remember for them.

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
Grand Knight, Council 451



	November		December
3	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	1	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
5	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	3	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
11	Veteran's & Memorial Mass 6:30pm at St. Charles	6	Christmas Party 🎄
13	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	11	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
15	Euchre Party	23	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
22	St. Charles Youth Retreat lunch as St. Felix's		
25	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights		
29	Blood Drive		
			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.

**** Richard Fifeiski – entered Eternal Life on 5/14/2025
– Mass 12/9/2025 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 November 5, 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 !

Our monthly Knights Mass and Breakfast has expanded to the second Thursday 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 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 Thursday, November 13 and/or November 25, 2025

We are looking at resurrecting the rosary call list for our fallen brothers. We will call when a brother has passed, and we will be saying a rosary for the repose of his soul. If you would like to be added or removed, simply send an email to knights451fw@gmail.com or text Joe Mikolay at 260-34-9416. Please include your name and the phone number you would like to use to be contacted.

Happy November Birthdays

Leo Backs, Jr.
Cody Barney
Tracy Collins
Joseph Colone
Sean Digan
Robert Heidenreich
Mark Herrberg
Dennis Jackson
Charles Jinks
Thomas Keller
John Kesson
Frank Koehl
John Kowalczyk
Gerald Lehman

John Leonard
Stephen Lutz
Alexander Maher
Daniel Mathis
Mark Miller
Michael Miller
Timothy Miller
James Morton
Omar Navarro
James Pifko
Kevin Ruger
Anthony Sliger
Martin Sweigert
Benji Walley



Jeffrey Wilder
Mark Wissel
Stephen Woods





Can Crushers Schedule

Oct 26 - Nov 1 : Jack Wehrly
Nov 2 - Nov 8 : Tom Lothamer
Nov 9 - Nov 15 : Joe Mikolay
Nov 16 - Nov 22 : Bruce Bennett
Nov 23 - Nov 29 : OPEN
Nov 30 - Dec 6 : Joe Mikolay
Dec 7 - Dec 13 : Sean Digan
Dec 14 - Dec 20 : 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.

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



Our Sixth Blood Drive for 2025

Council 451 will be sponsoring our sixth American Red Cross Blood Drive for 2025 on Saturday, **November 29**. Please sign up to donate blood during this Blood Drive. Everyone who donated on October 4th CAN donate at this Blood Drive.



Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

In the month of October our Honor Guard was present for the Mass of the World Apostolate of Fatima at the Cathedral, October 4. We also had several Sir Knights attending the Right to Life banquet, October 14, with 5 in the Color Guard to post the flags. Due to the banquet being held on our regular meeting night we moved our meeting to the 21st.

Sir Knight, Dennis Redding, a new member of our honor guard had participated in 3 events. That qualified him for the \$200 reimbursement toward the purchase of his 4th Degree uniform. That opportunity is still available to our 4th Degree members.

At our October meeting a motion was made to purchase a Keurig coffee maker for any member wanting a cup of coffee at our meetings or events. That was tabled so we could ask if any member has a coffee maker they would like to donate. If so, please let me know.

On November 11, our regular meeting will be preceded by Mass at 7:00 pm. It has been our tradition to have a Mass on Veterans Day. Our intention is to both honor our veterans and also to remember the deceased members of our Assembly. Let us remember in our prayer Sir Knights: Dr. James Cox, Bob Hartenstein, Jerry Kessens, John Kiel, and Don C. Luther. We look forward to the day when we will all join them in that heavenly kingdom.

For God, Country, and Neighbor
Mike Blankman, Navigator
Anthony Wayne Assembly 239

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.

Gibault Christmas List 2025



Did someone say Christmas?

With Christmas just a little over 3 months away (105 days, but who is counting?), our elves on both campuses are already preparing to make the holy season special for our kids. Below is a Christmas wish list. We welcome any and all donations for our kids. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

2025 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Electronics

Portable DVD players (without Wi-Fi access)
FM Radios – "boom boxes"
Nintendo Switches (used as DORM presents – not individual gifts)
Handheld electronics (games, music players)

Arts and Crafts

Diamond Paintings (found at Hobby Lobby or Amazon)
Coloring books for all ages
Play Doh sets

Games

Magic the Gathering cards
Pokémon cards
Board games
Card games

Clothing

Nike, Adidas, or Under Armor Shirts (t-shirts, crew sweatshirts-no hoodies, shorts)
Nike "Slides" (sandals) (variety of adult sizes)

Hygiene

Bodywash gift sets (Old Spice, Axe)

Toys

Lego kits (Minecraft, Marvel, etc.)
Lego Speech Champion Sets
Remote control cars
Squishmallows

Magnetic tiles

Transformers

K'nex building sets

Books

Goosebumps Series
Hunger Game Series
"I Survived" Series
Warriors Series
The Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer
Magic Tree House Series
Pokémon Books
The Shadow and Bone Trilogy by Leigh Bardugo
Twilight Series
Harry Potter Series
Wings of Fire Series

Girl Specific Gifts

Spa related items (nail polish, face masks)
Make up kits
"Wreck It" journals
Hairbrushes
Body mist
Fuzzy slippers
Journals

Recreation Supplies

Sports equipment (basketballs, kickballs, soccer, volleyball)
Fishing poles
Tackle boxes
Yoga items (mats, blocks)

Please Note: this list is for children on both of our campuses. Most of our youth are ages 12-17, there are no more than 32 girls on our campuses

The above is the most asked for things from our kids for Christmas. We always accept new puzzles, board games, sports balls, new sweatshirts with tags still attached in adult sizes without hoods, and art supplies.



Spaghetti Dinner for Dominic Durnell

The Knights were once again called upon to host a spaghetti dinner for a very special cause. By now with all the advertising, most of you are aware Dominic Durnell, a sixth grader at St. Charles School is battling Leukemia. He has been fighting the disease for nearly a year and is still facing at least another 2 ½ years of treatments. Needless to say, this has placed a tremendous financial strain on the family.

So, the Knights together with the support of the entire parish community hosted a dinner on October 1st in a clear message that said, “WE CARE”. St. Vincent de Paul Society provided additional manpower on the floor and in organizing the dessert tables. In addition, SVdP along with the students at St. Charles provided a beautiful selection of desserts spreading over five tables. The event was so well attended, that even with what was thought to be a safe reserve, we ran out of food before the advertised close. While there was no stated charge, the dinner was promoted entirely as a free-will offering. The event, as of this writing, received \$9,140 in contributions. This is indeed a very generous parish.



Dominic with a delicious looking tray.
Bruce Bennett served up a hearty portion of salad.



Dominic enjoying a meal with Grandma, Mom - Cristina, Dad - Kyle and brother.



Dominic joining a group of friends.



Dominic in a group picture

Mike Wass and Paul O'Shaughnessey man the greeting table.



Tim Isch and Jim Pifko our spaghetti chefs.



Gene Delaney (kitchen lead) is assisted by his daughter Anna.



Mike Havens, Mark Graf and David Lothamer prepping for the big event.



Sean Digan mixing up a batch of refreshing tea.



Blane Ryan, Alex Maher and Jim Keefer working one side of the serving line.

Spaghetti Dinner for Dominic Durnell continued . . .



Mark Graf, Frank Koehl, and David Lothamer working the other serving line.



Mike Ripley, Jack Wehrly and Tim Miller whipping up a batch of salad.



Prepping the drink table are Don Smith, Gail Stoner, Tom Richter and Joe Lauer.



Desserts made ready to serve by Kathy Vande Zande, Jill Redding, Jo Ellen Lauer, Laura Underwood.



Second shift dessert workers are Kathy Vande Zande, Marge & Herb Halley, Laura Underwood and Tom Ryan.



Steve Lutz gathers trays as Russ Suever looks on.



One of our future Knights, Eli Cheviron - Joe Mikolay's grandson.



John Prasesak and Don Smith working the one of the glamour jobs.



Andy Bernhard ready for the next load of cleaned trays.



Ed Schmieman making sure trays are thoroughly cleaned as John Murray looks on.



Nancy Ridenour making sure tables are clean and ready.



Jane Relue leaving no crumb behind.

Jack Entley - a boy scout kitchen volunteer.



Joe Mikolay and Dennis Redding overseeing the floor activity.

Joe Mikolay and Dennis Holp take a little time out to visit with Judy Sherron.



Trivia Night

Over the past couple of months, the Knights have responded to a number of financial requests above our normal budgeted items. These have included additional financial assistance for Cardinal Fest, St. Vincent de Paul Walk for Hope, a new furnace for the Guadalupe Men's Discernment House, and most recently hosting a spaghetti dinner for Dominic Durnell. At the September officers' meeting, there was discussion about holding some kind of an event that might generate funding to help offset some of these expenses. Sean Digan suggested a Trivia Night and took the lead in this venture.

So, on Saturday evening, October 14th the doors opened to the Knights first Trivia Party. Sean, along with his wife, Margaret, brainstormed ten challenging categories. Five teams competed for more than an hour for the grand prize of lottery tickets. To no-one's surprise, the winner was a team formed mainly of St. Charles School teachers. For all, it was a fun time, well organized by the Knights, and possibly laid the groundwork for future trivia nights. Our thanks to Sean and all those who worked the event.



Sean registering Bill Meyer's team.



Tom Keefer - master of ceremonies, Diane Keefer and Margaret Digan - scorekeepers.



Joe Mikolay - technician, discussing procedures with Sean and Tom.



Bill's team as they gather to fuel up before the big match.

Photos provided by Dennis Redding

Membership Drive 2025

Council 451 held a very successful Membership Drive on Saturday October 18 and Sunday October 19. Thanks to all who helped at the table in the Gathering Space and helped to serve coffee and donuts in the cafeteria. Many helping hands made for a successful drive! Many new members were signed up throughout the weekend.



Father Bobby and Justin Purdy talking to a potential new member



Dr. Tom Ryan



Shane Hall and Tim Isch



Mike Rippley speaking at Mass



Jim Pifko & Tim Isch

Parishioners enjoying coffee and donuts



Jim Pifko & Vince Lochbihler



Photos provided by Justin Purdy



Gibault Envoy Conference

By Jack Wehrly, PGK



On Saturday September 27th, I and my wife "Sis" and Mike Smith, our Council's Gibault Envoy, attended the Fall Envoy Conference on the Terre Haute campus of Gibault Children Services. All Knights, their spouses, and families of the children living there were invited to attend in hopes of bringing a better awareness of what Gibault is all about. There were 8 or 9 families of the 64 residents living there who attended, which does not sound like a very positive response to us, however, to the Gibault staff it was very positive.

Our day began in the Chapel with coffee, juice, pastries and of course the sale of raffle tickets. We were required to sign a document saying we would not take any pictures or interact with the residents except those who had chosen to be a part of the day's activities. Following the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance we listened to several of the K of C State officers, including State Deputy, Gil Spisak tell us of the history of the K of C and Gibault, the importance of the Knights support of Gibault and what a K of C/Gibault Envoy's responsibilities are. The usual parade of checks netted a total of \$84,000 for Gibault from the local Councils presenting and from the State Council. Council 451 Envoy, Mike Smith, presented a check for \$700 which is in addition to the several thousand dollars we contribute throughout the year. He also presented a check from St. Judes' council for \$500.

We then listened to Michelle Madley, CEO of Gibault, talk about Gibault, the residents, where they come from, the facilities and the business side of the organization. A council of five staff members decides if a child will be accepted for treatment at Gibault, not everyone, especially those with a criminal background, are accepted. There is a staff member with each resident as they move about the grounds, usually 2 or 3 for each dormitory. So, you can see a large staff is needed. Normally they would have 10 psychologists on staff, at the present time they only have five psychologists. A change in State law allows psychologists to set up their own practice sooner with less experience, making it difficult for Gibault to fulfill their needs.

Michelle then discussed some of the financial difficulties Gibault faces. First off, their insurance costs will triple from \$700,000 to \$2,100,000. After nine years of operating in the black they are expecting to have a loss of more than a million dollars. She also explained how being such an efficient operation has been a detriment when it comes to being reimbursed by the State. They receive only \$790/day/resident while other similar facilities receive nearly \$1,100/resident. Maybe the higher insurance cost will increase their per diem. She also expressed her gratitude to the Knights for all the support they provide.

After the morning events we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the cafeteria with desserts provided by the children. Following lunch, some of the kids participating in art therapy displayed their assignments and gave explanations to help the guest understand their paintings.

My wife and I attended an education open house given by the principal of the junior/senior high school. He explained the classes and the digital education the older kids receive. It was interesting to note that the desks were bolted to the floor for safety reasons. We explored the memorabilia room followed by a guided tour of the grounds by one of the staff members. Our guide did a wonderful job of educating us as to the day-to-day operations at Gibault.

We enjoyed our visit to Gibault and have great appreciation for doing all they do to help the unfortunate children of society.



Saint Maria Goretti

At our council's general meeting earlier this month, Deacon Rob brought with him a first-class relic of St. Maria Goretti and shared information with us about what relics are and the role they play in the faith life of Catholics.

He mentioned that so many brothers were interested in learning more about St. Maria, that he asked that we share her story with you in case you also would like to learn more.

Saint Maria Goretti

(October 16, 1890 – July 6, 1902)

Feast Day: July 6

Saint Maria Goretti's Story

One of the largest crowds ever assembled for a canonization—250,000—symbolized the reaction of millions touched by the simple story of Maria Goretti. She was the daughter of a poor Italian tenant farmer, had no chance to go to school, never learned to read or write. When Maria made her First Communion not long before her death, she was one of the larger and somewhat backward members of the class.

On a hot afternoon in July, Maria Goretti was sitting at the top of the stairs of her house, mending a shirt. She was not quite 12 years old, but physically mature. A cart stopped outside, and a neighbor, 18-year-old Alessandro, ran up the stairs. He seized her and pulled her into a bedroom. She struggled and tried to call for help. “No, God does not wish it,” she cried out. “It is a sin. You would go to hell for it.” Alessandro began striking at her blindly with a long dagger.

Maria Goretti was taken to a hospital. Her last hours were marked by the usual simple compassion of the good—concern about where her mother would sleep, forgiveness of her murderer (she had been in fear of him but did not say anything lest she cause trouble to his family), and her devout welcoming of Viaticum, her last Holy Communion. She died about 24 hours after the attack.

Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years in prison. For a long time, he was unrepentant and surly. One night he had a dream or vision of Maria Goretti gathering flowers and offering them to him. His life changed. When he was released after 27 years, his first act was to beg the forgiveness of Maria's mother.

Devotion to the young martyr grew, miracles were worked, and in less than half a century she was canonized. At her beatification in 1947, her 82-year-old mother, two sisters, and her brother appeared with Pope Pius XII on the balcony of St. Peter's. Three years later, at Maria's canonization, a 66-year-old Alessandro Serenelli knelt among the quarter-million people and cried tears of joy.

Source: [Saint Maria Goretti | Franciscan Media](#), compliments of Deacon Rob

For further information...

If you are interested in learning more about relics, Former Grand Knight Steve Lutz shared that there are two locations not far from Fort Wayne that are home to many different relics. There are also two places in Fort Wayne you can visit that host relics.

St. Anthony Chapel; Pittsburgh, PA - Saint Anthony Chapel is home to the largest collection of Christian relics in the world outside of the Vatican. This Shrine, dedicated to the "Wonder-Worker," St. Anthony of Padua, houses a vast collection of relics.

For more details visit: <https://pghshrines.org/the-chapel>

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics; Maria Stein, OH - The Shrine houses over 1,200 relics of the Saints and five relics of the True Cross. Additionally, the Shrine provides faith nourishment and spiritual renewal through opportunities for prayer, pilgrimage, and inspiration from the lives of the Saints. **For more details visit:** <https://mariasteinshrine.org/>

Cathedral Museum; Fort Wayne, IN - The museum's collection includes relics of St. Mother Teresa and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. **For more details visit:** <https://diocesefwsb.org/museum/>

Sacred Heart Church; Fort Wayne, IN - Sacred Heart Church has been blessed with over 250 first-class relics of the saints, and a few second-class relics. There is an area in the back of the church conducive to prayer where all of our relics are displayed for the faithful. There are guidebooks that show the locations of the relics in our custody. They also expose in the sanctuary the relics that we have on a saint's feast day and offer them to the veneration of the faithful on that day.

For more details visit: <https://diocesefwsb.org/museum/>

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!!!

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